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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 289

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 12, 2012

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least and 5 the most, how safe do you feel inside your homes these days?

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INSIDE

NATION



Marijuana for recreational use became legal in Colorado Monday.

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WORLD



Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi is widely accused of abandoning pledges of inclusive government for doctrinaire and authoritarian ways.

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FOCUS



Moon Tae-Hwa stares at his computer, dizzy and nauseous from the hours of porn he's viewed online.

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Man allegedly sexually abused 2 infants. **PAGE 2**
Mount Carmel freshman is Rotary awardee. **PAGE 6**

US-funded bus system in the works

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan may soon have a federally-funded public transportation system that will initially include two 15- to 20-passenger buses on a flexible-route system as early as next year, to be operated by a private company under contract with the Commonwealth Transit Authority, or COTA. Members of the House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee separately said yesterday they welcome such undertaking but it has to be carefully studied.

The cost to residents and tourists could be \$1.50 to \$2 per segment or from point A to point B, depending on the results of

an ongoing review.

This is expected to be lower than the

See BUS on Page 4

Victims' kin yet to be notified

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Relatives of the couple whose decomposing bodies were found Sunday afternoon have yet to be informed of their deaths, according to Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason T. Tarkong.

Tarkong said yesterday that DPS procedure requires a representative of the agency, typically an officer from the homicide investigation unit, to be in charge of communicating with the victims' family.

He confirmed that as of yesterday,

no family member has been contacted by police.

Police earlier said they will not release the identities of the victims pending notification of their next of kin, and that they do not have any suspect for the case, which is being treated as a double homicide.

The couple were the parents of a 6-year-old student at Mount Carmel School who was not picked up after school on Thursday.

A filing of a child neglect case led authorities Sunday afternoon to the couple's San Vicente residence where the

See VICTIMS' KIN on Page 4

SURGE OPERATION

A U.S. Navy MH-60S Knighthawk helicopter waits for refueling behind an FA-18D Hornet on Tinian's West Field during simulated surge operation as part of Exercise Forager Fury 2012. Surge operations are slated to last at least 80 hours and simulate a continuous operational tempo. The Hornet is with Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224, which is currently under the Unit Deployment Program with Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. The Knighthawk is with Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 out of Anderson Air Force Base, Guam.

LANCE CPL. JOSEPH KARWICK

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Only 4 of 80 report campaign spending

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Only four among an estimated 80 candidates and political parties in the Nov. 6 midterm elections have so far filed their detailed campaign statement of account with the Office of the Public Auditor, but

many lawmakers interviewed yesterday said they will beat the Dec. 26 deadline.

Of the four early filers, one is an incumbent.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan) told

► **Lawmakers say they will beat Dec. 26 deadline**

campaign finance report in November. Tebuteb, who was re-elected, said he did

not hold any fundraiser but received only a few hundreds in donations to add to his personal money, for a total of less than \$1,000

in campaign spending.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), who lost his re-election bid, said he will file his campaign finance report this week or next week.

"I'm not in a hurry to file but I will file. I didn't do any fundraising but I think I spent some \$2,600 for my campaign," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) said

See SPENDING on Page 4

Local

Police arrest man for alleged sex abuse of 2 infants

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police authorities arrested a 47-year-old man on Thursday on suspicion of molesting two infants in Kagman.

Steve Sahagun was charged with sexual assault in the second degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, sexual abuse of a child, child abuse or neglect, and indecent exposure in the first degree.

Police received a call on the night of Dec. 5 about a sexual abuse incident involving minors. Police officers were deployed to Kagman III, Banalu Loop to investigate.

According to the investiga-

tion conducted by police detective Nicholas C. Leon Guerrero, the suspect molested two female babies aged 1 month old and 4 months old, respectively, on Dec. 4 and 5. The suspect was allegedly drunk during both incidents.

Sahagun, according to the

babies' relatives who witnessed the incident, touched the private parts of the two infants, who were then heard crying. Both infants were then taken to the hospital after the incident, in time for the arrest of the suspect who was transported to the Department of Corrections.

Superior Court judge Perry Inos set Sahagun's bail at \$75,900 on Monday and set his arraignment on Jan. 8, 2013 at 9am. The judge appointed the Public Defender's Office to represent the suspect.

Preliminary hearing is on Dec. 17 at 9am.

'Emergency medical services in CNMI need to be regulated'

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Regulating an emerging emergency medical services industry has drawn support from the privately owned Saint Michael's Medical Response, the Guam Department of Public Health

and Social Services, and the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, among other entities.

The JGO panel, chaired by Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), is now recommending the passage of Sen. Jovita Taimanao's (Ind-Rota) Senate

Bill 17-76, Senate Substitute 1 in the lower chamber.

The bill establishes, maintains, and regulates an emergency medical services system that includes all public and private emergency medical services personnel, emergency medical and non-emergency transport vehicles, equipment,

facilities, communication systems, and training facilities.

James Gillan, director of Guam's DPHSS, said this bill will directly benefit the Pacific region of EMS partners by promoting a coordinated and more efficient EMS response system for all the islands of the Marianas.

"Most importantly, the quality of health care will improve

for the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands through the passage of Senate Bill 17-76," Gillan said in a letter to House JGO Committee's Demapan.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) separately said yesterday he might be calling a session next week, so SB 17-76, SS1 might be acted on by members.

Joseph C. Santos, president of Saint Michael's Medical Response, said he is in full support of the bill. Saint Michael's Medical Response is the first and only Medicare certified private ambulance company in the CNMI.

"Passing SB 17-76, SS1 will provide for a uniform set of standards that will guarantee that both private and public ambulance services are fully compliant with government and industry standards, especially in terms of scope of practice required of any ambulance service system. With strict compliance to both standards, the CNMI community is ensured of the best ambulance service system, as is common throughout the United States," Santos told Demapan.

Santos, however, said he can only support the regulation if it is placed under the auspices of the CNMI Health Care Professional Licensing Board "on the strengths of its non-biased nature and impartiality."

"Regulations protect the legitimacy of my company and, more importantly, protect the community from less scrupulous entities from providing sub-standard care. Simply put, regulation of both private and public ambulances, as well as the EMS is good for our community; especially for the women, children, and marginalized individuals of our Commonwealth," Santos added.

If signed into law, the measure will authorize the Health Care Professions Licensing Board to promulgate and regulate rules for the implementation of an EMS system, and the standards for certification and recertification of emergency medical service facilities, vehicles, personnel, equipment, supplies and communications systems engaged in providing emergency or non-emergency medical services.

DoD helps Palau in wake of Super Typhoon Bopha

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Department of Defense assisted the Republic of Palau prior to and in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Bopha.

The storm struck Palau on Dec. 2 producing winds of approximately 155 miles per hour and left extensive damage to infrastructure, power lines and roads.

In preparation for the storm, Lt. Cmdr. Roldan Mina, of Joint Region Marianas, arrived in Palau and served as the liaison for the U.S. Defense Representative Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of Palau. The DEFREP serves as the representative of the Department of Defense to the Department of State and the respective foreign nation within their area of responsibility to coordinate support, aid and humanitarian assistance when needed.

"Palau's emergency management pre-storm preparations, combined with DEFREP, U.S. AID [Agency for International Development] Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance and JTF-HD [Joint Task Force-Homeland Defense] disaster preparedness/mitigation and planning engagement directly contributed to prevention of loss of life," Mina said.

DEFREP's assistance dem-

onstrated significant teamwork between the Department of Defense, Republic of Palau and Department of State.

"The presence of the DEFREP in country reinforces the forward-leaning role of DOD in providing assistance and relief upon request by the affected country, in this case Palau," Mina said. "This only further fosters our relationships with our allies."

As part of the mission, Mina worked with the U.S. Embassy, Palau National Emergency Management Office, USAID OFDA and the U.S. Pacific Command Civic Action Team Palau to assist with debris clearing and delivery of essentials such as drinking water, food and gasoline to atolls within the sovereign nation affected by the storm.

CAT Palau enables U.S. Pacific Command's engagement strategy by directing and supporting the civic action program in community construction, apprentice training, medical assistance, and community relations programs. In the wake of the storm, the team provided assistance by clearing debris such as trees from the roads and helping with rebuilding efforts. They also have provided potable water to 200 residents in the state of Ngaraard. (PR)

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Former PSS official tagged as key witness in sex trafficking case

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Attorney Alicia A. G. Limtiaco asked the U.S. District Court on Sunday to allow a person that she identified as an essential witness in an ongoing sex trafficking case to testify via video teleconference.

Limtiaco is the attorney for the plaintiff in the case against Chang Ru Meng Backman a.k.a. Chang Ru Meng Igisaia, who was indicted on three counts of sex trafficking by force, fraud,

or coercion and three counts of alien smuggling-harboring.

Backman reportedly operated the Holiday Night Club, a karaoke bar on the second floor of a building in Chalan Kanoa, which allegedly provided sexual services for a fee. Backman allegedly received money from club customers for sexual services performed by women at her direction. Sex acts performed by these women generally took place in rooms where the women lived in a barracks adjacent to the

Holiday Night Club.

In a three-page document filed Dec. 9, Limtiaco wants Peter Leau to testify in the case either in person or via video teleconference. Leau is a former associate commissioner of the Public School System who retired from service due to medical reasons. He now lives in La Palma, California.

Limtiaco told the court that Leau is "an essential fact witness" in the case.

In connection with this case, Leau was interviewed by law

enforcement on two occasions on Sept. 17, 2012 and on Nov. 28, 2012.

In at least one of these interviews, Leau indicated that he suffered a stroke in 2010. However, Leau never indicated that he was still suffering the effects of this stroke in such a way as to be unable to travel to Saipan to testify.

The U.S., according to court document, has twice subpoenaed Leau to testify: first in October and in November this year after the trial date was moved.

During a phone interview with counsel for the U.S. last Dec. 7, Limtiaco stated that Leau indicated for the first time that he might not be able to travel to Saipan to testify due to his health problems. Limtiaco said she advised Leau that he could not be released from compliance with a subpoena without, at the very least, a letter from a physician. Leau provided a letter from his doctor last Sunday.

Another reason provided by Leau was that he had received phone calls from the counsel of the defendant about the case.

Limtiaco said the defendant's counsel, Joaquin Torres, does not object to continuing the trial and had agreed that Leau was an essential witness in the case.

Limtiaco asked the federal court for more time to determine whether Leau's medical problems truly render him unable to travel to Saipan to testify or whether his sudden shift in position is attributable to other reasons. She said if Leau is, in fact, unable to travel to Saipan, that he be allowed to testify via video teleconference.

\$22M at stake for public hospital

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twenty-two million dollars a year is too much to lose for the cash-strapped Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

That is the approximate amount of yearly reimbursement that the Commonwealth Health Center receives from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, so corporation officials are taking pains to address all deficiencies cited at the hospital to avert losing millions of federal aids for health-care services.

Corporation COO and chief financial officer Esther Muna disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that the public hospital will lose some \$22 million a year if CHC's condition of participation with CMMS is terminated. This amount, she revealed, covers \$12 million in yearly reimbursement for Medicare patients and \$10 million reimbursements from Medicaid clients.

"We will make sure we address everything because \$22 million is a significant amount that we cannot afford to lose if we don't address all CMMS issues. For now, that's our priority," said Muña.

In these times of financial constraints, these reimbursements are a major source of funds for the hospital, helping sustain its operational needs. Since fiscal year 2011, portions of these funds have been used to buy equipment, medical supplies, and even hire specialists.

Abatement

Last Friday, the immediate jeopardy statuses slapped on CHC were officially lifted and the deadline for CHC to fix all other deficiencies was extended to February 2013.

For corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta, the abatement of all three immediate jeopardy statuses was a collective effort of all staff, employees, and members of the corporation board.

Babauta, in his letter to board members, specifically recognized the hard work of Muña, hospital director Karen Buettner, and emergency preparedness director Warren Vil-

lagomez, and the core administrative staff, doctors and nurses at CHC. Also lauded were the key roles played by the Governor's Office, Attorney General's Office, and the governor's special counsel Jim Stump for the "tremendous help" extended to the corporation during the times it was addressing the citations from CMMS.

Babauta said he had a teleconference last Friday with CMMS Division on Certification manager Rufus Arther where he was made aware of the lifting of the immediate jeopardy statuses. He said he immediately relayed the "good news" to the board.

"Now, we begin the equally important process of putting together our 'Plan of Corrections,' which is due 10 days from today [Dec. 17, 2012] on how CHCC is going to redress the 13 conditions of participation to which substantial noncompliance has been identified by CMMS in a Nov. 9, 2012, letter to CHCC. Upon our submission of the

POC, CHCC's new termination date for full and complete compliance is now Feb. 11, 2012," Babauta told the board.

He said all key staff are now putting together the plan of correction and addressing the 13 areas of noncompliance. He

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promised to update the board as the management addresses the remaining concerns.

"This is going to be a concerted team effort on the part of everyone. The final product will in effect be a comprehensive system plan or policy manual for the hospital. I will update each one of you as we move along," added Babauta.

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Fund sues 3 autonomous agencies

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund yesterday filed in federal court an amended complaint against three government agencies for failing to remit employer contributions to the pension agency.

Named third party defendants in the amended lawsuit were the Northern Marianas College and two of its officials, the Public School System and six of its officials, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. This case arises from the failure of these agencies to remit the mandated employer and employee contributions to the pension agency. It represents past due payments, including penalties that total tens of millions of dollars.

The agency officials included in the amended third party complaint are NMC president Sharon Hart, Ph.D., and Board of Regent member

Frank Rabauliman; Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., and Board of Education members Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Tanya King, Marylou Ada, Lucy Blanco-Maratita, and Herman Guerrero.

The amended complaint, which was filed by Fund counsels Braddock Huesman and Daniel Berman, expands the relief being requested by the Fund to include a receivership and injunctive relief.

The Fund disclosed that, as of yesterday, the total amount of NMC's delinquency, including the deficit from partial contributions and the failure to make any contributions since April 10, 2012, total more than \$6.29 million. For PSS, the delinquency is more than \$30 million. It was revealed that since the inception of Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., it has made no payments to the pension agency and the arrears now total \$7.4 million.

According to the Fund, the penalty

that has accrued on these delinquent payments now amount to \$1.62 million for NMC, \$6.9 million for PSS, and \$1.4 million for CHCC. Both the unpaid employer contributions and the statutory penalty continue to increase with each passing pay period.

The three agencies and their officials are accused of breach of contract, declaration judgment, and violation of the U.S. Constitution.

The Fund, in its 15-page filing yesterday, wants the court to enter judgment for the Fund and award damages in an amount to be determined.

It also requested the court to enter declaratory judgment in its favor, finding the defendants to be in breach of contract and in violation of the U.S. Constitution's prohibition against an impairment of contract obligations.

Also being sought is injunctive relief, payment of attorney's fees, costs of court, and other relief.



Thomas J. Camacho, the governor's special assistant for public transportation, says in an interview yesterday on Capital Hill that his office has been working on a proposal for an "expanded" public bus system on Saipan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

BUS

From Page 1

current rate of about \$6 paid by people with disabilities and *man'amko* availing of the now-temporarily suspended Call-A-Ride.

Thomas J. Camacho, the governor's special assistant for public transportation, said yesterday that his office has been working on this proposal for an "expanded" transportation service, in addition to the para-transit system commonly known as the Saipan Call-A-Ride transportation service for people with disabilities and the elderly or *man'amko*.

Camacho, who also chairs the COTA advisory board, said when COTA submits its budget to the Federal Transit Authority for the Saipan Call-A-Ride, it will also include a proposal to expand the current specialized services to the public that has no means to go from one place to another.

But Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the House PUTC Committee, said this should be "carefully studied" to avoid having the CNMI government subsidizing the public bus system if the federal government stops paying for the operations and maintenance after the second or third year. He supports providing an affordable public transportation to the public.

"Considering our own financial constraint, we don't want the local govern-

ment paying for it in the end. Would the federal government also pay for the maintenance, the bus drivers, the gas? It has to be carefully studied and considered," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), a member of the House PUTC panel, said a public transportation system would alleviate the continued increase in the cost of gasoline. He also said there are still many people who do not have their own transportation.

"This will assist them. This is also a result of a bill introduced by Rep. Ray Yumul and I am glad this is moving forward and Mr. Tom Camacho is on top of this," he said. Dela Cruz is also chairman of the Public Infrastructure Committee of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

Camacho said the FTA will fund the purchase of the buses for COTA, along with funding for its operations and maintenance. COTA will bid out the actual operations of the buses to private companies.

"We are not going to operate it directly because we don't want to do that. We're going to monitor and maintain ensuring the service is provided out there by a private company. We're going to bid them out," he said in an interview yesterday on Capital Hill.

He said the plan is also to "take over the current Saipan Call-a-Ride and expand that by adding two mini-buses that would go around the island [in] a flex-route system, not a fixed route," which goes by fixed time and stops.

Under the flex route system, the buses could pick up and drop off passengers in areas where there are essential or critical government or public services such as the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Housing Corp., or government offices on Capital Hill, as well as major spots for shopping and recreation such as parks. But Camacho said if somebody needs to be picked up from Kagman, for example, the bus may also go to Kagman and then back to the normal route.

"That can deviate, that can go into the village, and then go back to its regular routine, and continue on. We may allow people to just maybe wave the bus down to be picked up along the route and or be dropped off, not necessarily on designated areas. It gives that flexibility," Camacho said.

He said there is going to be a lot of planning involved. They also want to make sure the plan complies with local and federal requirements such as the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Camacho said in the fiscal year 2013 cycle, COTA would want to expand the service to Rota and Tinian by buying additional vans.

Besides providing public transportation, the project would also spur economic activities and provide jobs to drivers, dispatchers, maintenance staff and mechanics, among other things.

COTA is also awaiting the results of a study on the feasibility of having an interisland ferry.

'Appoint trustee ad litem as permanent receiver'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund, through its counsels, urged the federal court yesterday to appoint trustee *ad litem* Joseph Razzano as a permanent receiver for the pension agency so he could continue to manage its operations, collect judgment, and enforce the CNMI government's continuing obligation to pay its legally required contributions in order to ensure future distributions for Fund members.

In a 22-page document filed in court yesterday, the Fund stated that, without the remedy of receivership, the CNMI government will continue to be unwilling or unable to raise revenue to satisfy the court judgment.

"The trustee *ad litem* should be granted powers of receiver so as to allow day-to-day management of the Fund in order to preserve the Fund assets, collect assets owed the Fund and continue the Fund's life," reads part of the documents, adding that the move will further the interest of judicial economy and optimize Fund resources.

The Fund is suing the CNMI government for breach of contract; violation of the U.S. and CNMI con-

stitutions; violation of due process; deprivation of rights; breach of fiduciary duty; and unjust enrichment.

In the same court documents, the Fund denied that its bankruptcy filing diminished or impaired the accrued benefits of pension members. It also discounted allegations that there is, or has been, any mismanagement on the part of board of trustees, whose functions were transferred to the trustee *ad litem* on Sept. 14, 2012.

The Fund's request that the trustee *ad litem* be appointed as its receiver is before the court on a pending motion.

"In the event that the CNMI government continues in their intransigent position to refuse to satisfy the final judgment, the Fund requests the establishment of a receivership over the CNMI's Department of Finance and its Division of Tax and Revenue to supervise, administer, and ensure compliance with the judgment and orders of this court," states the Fund.

The Fund disclosed that under its most current estimates, the agency will exhaust its available resources before end of 2014. It admits that its financial problems are due to the government's refusal to honor its commitments to pay the Fund.

SPENDING

From Page 1

she will be filing hers next week on Rota.

OPA reminded all 2012 election candidates and political parties to file a mandatory complete, signed, dated and verified campaign statement of account by Dec. 26, or be subjected to a fine of up to \$100 per day for each day the statement is late.

Those required to file include winners and losers in the election, pursuant to Public Law 12-18 or the NMI Election Reform Act of 2000.

Rep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan), Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan), and others separately said yesterday they're working on their campaign statement of account, which they will file in the next few days.

Maratita said she did not have any

fundraiser, and spent not more than \$5,000 on her re-election campaign.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) said his campaign treasurer is still working on the statement.

"We are aware of the deadline, and we are aware that we may request for an extension if necessary," he added.

Wilma Atalig, an auditor with OPA, said yesterday that they have so far received only four campaign statements of account. Atalig said they expect most candidates to file their statements on the week of the deadline.

OPA will be providing notary services on Rota on Dec. 17 from 9am to 4:30pm and Dec. 18 from 9am to 12pm at the Rota mayor's conference room, and on Tinian on Dec. 20 from 9am to 4:30pm also in the mayor's conference room. On Saipan, OPA provides notary services Monday through Friday from 8am to 4:30pm.

The campaign statement of account form is available on OPA's website at www.opacnmi.com.

VICTIMS' KIN

From Page 1

bodies of a man and woman were discovered in a decomposing state.

Police also recovered the couple's missing vehicle, a white Honda CRV, in Garapan at 2:20am on Sunday.

On Sunday night, an autopsy was conducted on the two bodies but the cause of death is being withheld, pending notification of the next of kin.

Meanwhile, Tarkong said they have yet to see the complaint filed against a police officer who allegedly pointed a handgun at a young female motorist in Kagman.

"I heard there was a complaint filed but I have not reviewed it," he said.

It was learned that an 18-year-old motorist was driving alone Monday night when she noticed a marked police car

following her and later pulled her over.

The police officer allegedly pointed his gun at the motorist and asked her to step out. Later, a female police officer arrived at the scene and talked to the driver, then the other police officer in Carolinian.

Tarkong said he only learned about the incident in the news, prompting him to meet separately with the alleged officer and DPS acting commissioner Aniceto Ogomoro yesterday.

"We're out there to protect the public and their property. But officers need to treat any situation with caution," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Tarkong explained that if a police officer pulls over a motorist and the motorist does not comply, the risk assessment becomes higher and raises red flags for authorities.

He noted that an investigation on the incident has already been initiated.

Marines, sailors begin surge exercise on Tinian, Guam

By LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

TINIAN, Northern Marianas Islands—Yesterday marked the beginning of 24-hour surge operations in Guam and on Tinian for Marines and sailors participating in Exercise Forager Fury 2012.

Surge operations are slated to last at least 80 hours and simulate a continuous operational tempo.

“Surge operations are basically Marine Aircraft Group 12 showing in force how they can do continuous flight operations in a simulated hostile environment,” said Master Sgt. Roy L. Clayton Jr., the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of Marine forces on Tinian with Marine Wing support Squadron 171, MAG-12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. “They are training to get the maximum amount of flights and we are training to provide the best aviation ground support possible.”

During the surge, MWSS-171 will provide support for various types of aircraft.

“We are expecting mostly FA-18s but we will also get some MH-60s from the Navy and some MV-22 Ospreys during surge operations,” said Clayton. “Surge operations should last for at least three to four days.”

In order to maintain a constant tempo, Marines and sailors will work in shifts to keep everybody fresh.

“We are going to do two rotational shifts at 12 hours each to give some of the Marines a break and bring fresh, well-rested Marines in,” said Clayton.

Safety is the main priority for



LANCE CPL. JOSEPH KARWICK
An FA-18D Hornet receives fuel on Tinian's West Field during simulated surge operation as part of Exercise Forager Fury 2012.

any Marine Corps exercise and FF12 is no different.

“For the upcoming surge event, our plan is to be within a two-minute standby time to be ready for any possible emergencies that the aircraft might have,” said Staff Sgt. Joaquin Moreno, an expeditionary airfield technician and runway supervisor with the squadron. “A two-minute standby is the time we are allotted during an in-flight emergency to have the arresting gear ready to take an emergency arrestment.”

With the Marines on Tinian providing aviation ground support to the aircraft out of Guam, the surge is sure to be a valued training experience for all involved.

Weindl may pursue out-of-court settlement in case

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The former principal of Whispering Palms School, Thomas Weindl, is asking for more time to respond to a government motion for reconsideration, saying an out-of-court resolution of the case is in the works.

In a three-page document filed by his lawyer, David G. Banes, Weindl reported to the court that the parties are engaged in serious discussions regarding a possible out-of-court resolution of this case that could obviate the need for the court to decide the government's pending motion for reconsideration.

“This specific out-of-court resolution at issue is currently being discussed with the defendant in conjunction with his family. Additionally, defendant's counsel is presently off-island and will not be returning until Dec. 20, 2012,” stated the latest filing in federal court.

According to Weindl, giving him more time to respond will

allow the parties to focus their respective energies on the out-of-court resolution as well as potentially spare the court from having to expend time and resources in deciding a motion to reconsider that could potentially be moot.

On the filing's footnotes, it was disclosed that besides his wife, the defendant has six adult children and two sisters with whom he is very close and with whom he would like to consult about the out-of-court resolution. It was reported that all family members, except for his wife, reside in the mainland, which makes any semblance of family discussion difficult to accomplish without the additional time being asked for since the defendant is allowed only one 3-minute telephone conversation each day and one 30-minute personal visit each week.

The indictment charged the 57-year-old Weindl with two counts of receipt of child pornography and two counts of access with intent to view child pornography. He has pleaded not guilty.

40th YEAR
Tan Holdings
Established 1972

Anniversary

GRAND NIGHT RAFFLE

will be this
Friday, December 14, 2012
at 8:30pm

Mount Carmel freshman is Rotary Club awardee



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Mount Carmel student Thomas Lee A. Manglona II, second right, receives a certificate and \$50 cash from, left to right, Rotary Club of Saipan secretary Richard Cody, president Pete Shilling, and visiting Rotary International District 2750 governor Takamoto Sakuma, during yesterday's meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the first time, the Rotary Club of Saipan recognized yesterday a high school student for going the extra mile to help his community and serve as a role model for the youth of the CNMI.

Thomas Lee A. Manglona II, a freshman at Mount Carmel School, became the first recipient of the Family and Community Service Award, an honor bestowed by the Rotary Club of Saipan as part of its humanitarian goal to empower the youth for a better Commonwealth.

Manglona received a certificate and \$50 from Rotary president Pete Shilling, secretary Richard Cody, and Rotary International District 2750 governor Takamoto Sakuma, who arrived yesterday morning for a daylong visit to Saipan.

Laila Y. Boyer, vice president for Rotary Club of Saipan, said the 14-year-old Manglona was selected for having exemplified the group's motto of "Service above self" and becoming an inspiration to other youth in the community by creating

"Rota Today."

This online publication, which started as a blog, aims to share the happenings on the island of Rota which does not get enough coverage in the newspapers, according to Manglona.

"Rota Today" can be browsed at <http://rotatoday.webs.com>. It also has a Facebook page, facebook.com/rotatoday.

"I'm deeply honored and humbled to receive this award from the Rotary Club," he told Rotarians during yesterday's meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

A native of Rota, Manglona writes and receives articles and photos for "Rota Today," which has attracted the attention not only of people in the Northern Marianas but also in the mainland, including Colin Duncan from Oregon.

Manglona said that Duncan, business manager for Neighborhood Notes, the local news and event source in Portland, served as Rota Today's editor when Manglona was still on Rota.

"I'm really dedicated to community service and I believe that Rotary Club is based on the same foundation that I built

'Rota Today' on," he said.

Manglona, who considers himself an aspiring journalist, said he unfortunately stopped publishing articles for his online publication but vowed to write articles when he goes back to the southern island next week for his Christmas break.

After moving to Saipan to receive better education, Manglona said he decided to hone his writing skills through his journalism teacher, Keiko Yamagata, and by being involved in *The Round Table*, the official weekly publication of Mount Carmel students where he serves as co-editor.

Manglona, who also serves as freshman president, shared his plans to change the atmosphere in the only private Catholic school on island by envisioning its acronyms to denote "More Community Service."

Nowadays, Manglona said his fellow students are getting involved in beach cleanups and other community service projects so that more and more people would "dedicate every beat of their heart for a better Commonwealth."

NMC Business Department info session on Dec. 12

Working professionals looking to advance their career and those who are interested in earning a college degree in business are encouraged to attend the free Northern Marianas College Business Department Information Session on Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2012 from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in Room D-1.

At the Information Session, attendees will learn about the NMC Business Department's expanded course offerings in different areas of business including management, accounting, marketing, or computer applications.

With more evening, weekend, and online courses, the Business Department has also

been increasing the flexibility of its classes to help working professionals maintain a full-time student status so that they can qualify for additional financial aid.

Attendance at the Business Department Info Session qualifies participants to receive a waiver of the admission application fee and the placement test fee (a savings of up to \$75) for the upcoming spring 2013 semester.

The Northern Marianas College offers an Associate in Arts Degree in Business; an Associate in Applied Science in Hospitality Management; and an Associate in Applied Science in Business Administration, with

emphasis in accounting, business management, or computer applications.

Furthermore, NMC offers a Bachelor of Science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), and associate degrees in liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, and criminal justice. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

For more information about the NMC Business Department Information Session, visit www.nmcnet.edu or email chavelg@nmcnet.edu. (NMC)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Forten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW13-RFP-001

MARPI LANDFILL OPERATIONS

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Acting Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies or individuals for the **Marpi Landfill Operations**, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, under Article 7, "Local Business Preference," as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§ 70-30.3-210** (competitive sealed proposals) of the Procurement Regulations.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after **December 12, 2012** at the Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, Saipan, MP 96950. A mandatory Pre-proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., local time, at the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station on **January 2, 2013**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Alex S. Chong, Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 322-2762 no later than 4:00 p.m. local time **January 16, 2013**.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW13-RFP-001."** For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposal must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, **January 22, 2013**.

Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, **January 22, 2013**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **January 22, 2013** and must be received no later than **January 21, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of proposal. Submitted proposals are to be valid for 180-days from date of Submission Deadline. Selected contractor will be allowed not more than 120-days prior to contract performance for delivery of the required equipments. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the delivery of the required equipments.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the responsible proposers who submit proposals determined to be most reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purposes of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. A fee shall be negotiated with the highest qualified firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the Government under their sole discretion. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then another firm may be selected in the order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price acceptable to the Commonwealth is agreed upon.

All response to this RFP shall take into account payment of all associated tax liabilities. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the Government.

Evaluation Factors

Factors that will be used in the evaluation of proposals are the proposed operational plan and company background and qualification. The value assigned to these evaluation factors are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Background and Qualification | 40% |
| 2. Operational Plan | 60% |

The successful proposer will be subject to a responsibility determination in compliance with §70-30.3-245 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations and will be required to submit additional information as required by the Commonwealth. Responsibility determination will include, but not limited to, ability of proposer to obtain required insurance; financing; experience. Additionally, proposals must comply with submission of information required regarding company background and qualification, and operational plan in the identified format. These requirements are identified below.

Background and Qualification

Proposers must submit company background and qualification detailing the proponents experience that are directly or somehow related to the proposed landfill operations specified in this scope of work.

Submitted Background and Qualification should be no longer than 5 pages (typed) in length.

Operational Plan

Proposers must submit a brief description of their proposed plan for meeting the requirements of the Scope of Work. Contents of the submitted operational plan must provide sufficient detail to convey an understanding of the scope of work requirements; how these requirements will be met; and inclusion of detailed information concerning the associated costs as presented in the proposal. Separate examination and costing should be provided for the following areas of the Scope of Work:

1. Equipment;
2. Insurance;
3. Training;
4. Site Access;
5. Waste Disposal;
6. Daily and Intermediate Cover;
7. Surface Water Control;
8. Site Personnel;
9. Leachate Management and Monitoring; and
10. Operation of Vegetated Submerged Bed

The submitted Operational Plan should be no longer than 10 pages (typed) in length.

/s/ VICENTE B. CASTRO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Storage and Distribution Supervisor

Associate's Degree with at least 3 years of distribution and warehousing supervisory experience. Knowledge of household goods handling and airfreight and oceanfreight operations is required. Proficiency in Warehouse management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Shipping Supervisor

Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of shipping, receiving and warehousing supervisory experience is required. Proficiency in shipping operations, shipping documentation & cargo management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, 49 CFR & IMDG Code is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines. Knowledge of bill of lading, scheduling and planning inbound and outbound shipments is a must.

Transportation Supervisor

Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of logistics and trucking operations supervisory experience is required. Must be knowledgeable in transportation and safety regulations and proficient in various logistic software. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Freight Forwarding Supervisor

Associate's Degree with at least 3 years experience in freight forwarding operations and 1-year experience in transportation security and communication related activities. Knowledge of TSA security regulations and proficiency in TSA Known Shipper Management System are a must. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation and IATA related trainings. Proficiency in airfreight documentation, freight forwarding software, FEDEX systems and operations are a must. Must be familiar with airline operations and regulations.

Shipping and Receiving Clerk (6)

Associate's Degree and at least 2 years work related experience. Must be proficient in MS Office programs as well as other planning and logistics software. Knowledge of supply chain, shipping operations and procedures, document preparation and recordkeeping is required. Should possess good interpersonal and verbal communication skills.

Truck Mechanic

Vocational or High School Graduate. Must be able to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul trucks, or maintain and repair any type of engines. Minimum of two (2) year work experience is required on these areas: lubrication, repairs and servicing, use of machine tools, welding and flame cutting, engine elements, gears, brakes, transmission, exhausts, etc. Proficiency in critical devices for fuel tank trucks is a must.

Sales Officer

Associate's Degree in Sales or Marketing and at least 3 years work related experience are required as well as an extensive knowledge and experience in supply chain and freight brokerage. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Can work flexible hours. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Proficiency in freight forwarding, shipping and household goods operations are a must. Must be familiar with freight forwarding software.

Cargo and Freight Agent (5)

Associate's Degree with a minimum of 2 years experience in a logistics, freight brokerage or warehouse services business. Must know how to operate a forklift with certification. Must be able to do strenuous work with some lifting and carrying of small items on the job. Licensed to drive 4x6 wheel closed vans and must have obtained training or certification in handling hazardous materials, Occupational Safety, Hazardous Waste Operation and IAC CCSF authorized screener. Must be proficient in MS Office and Oracle-based programs and available to work on evenings and weekend hours.

Specialized Truck Driver (6)

High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Must have at least 3 years experience in hauling petroleum products with the corresponding SMITHS & STOPS training certification, carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Heavy Equipment Truck Driver (3)

High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Experience in carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Automotive Body Repairer

Formal Auto Body Training in a Vocational School is required as well as a minimum of one-year experience in repairing and refinishing automotive vehicle bodies' vehicle frames. Proficiency in automotive body painting is required.

Janitor

Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should be sent to hrd@ctsi.spn.com not later than December 21, 2012.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Japan's Defense honors CNMI son

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An official of Japan's Ministry of Defense has honored a CNMI son, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Harry Camacho Blanco, for his commitment and initiative to strengthen the relationship between the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force and the U.S. Army.

Blanco is the highest-ranking U.S. Army commissioned officer currently on active duty status from the CNMI. He is a former executive director of the Criminal Justice and Planning Agency.

Major Gen. Koji Yamazaki, director of Personnel Department, Ground Staff Office at Japan's Ministry of Defense, presented a Nov. 20, 2012, letter of appreciation to Blanco.

Yamazaki said that since July 2008 when Blanco was assigned to the U.S. Army Japan Reserve Office, Blanco has committed himself "with great enthusiasm and initiative to fortifying the relationship between Japan Ground Self-Defense Force and the United States Army, which



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Harry Camacho Blanco, left, receives a letter of appreciation from an official of Japan's Ministry of Defense in November.

thereby contributed to stronger bonds and ever more cooperative relationship between Japan and the United States of America."

"Above all, as a senior reserve advisor, you have deeply appreciated the significance of the JGSDF Reserve Central Training and provided remarkable assistance in four times of the training with the lectures on the United States Army Reserve System. This enormously con-

tributed to boosting morale and motivation of the JGSDF reserve personnel," Yamazaki said.

He also cited Blanco's promotion of mutual understanding on each of the five regional armies' reserve system from 2010 to 2012, among other things.

In 2009, the CNMI Senate also presented Blanco with a commemorative resolution honoring his accomplishments.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

To all FSM citizens residing on Saipan

A delegation consisting of members of the 17th Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia will be holding a public meeting with all available FSM citizens today, Dec. 12, 2012, at 7:30pm at the Pohnpeian Church in Kannat Tabla.

Sen. Joseph J. Urusumal of Yap State, chairman of the Committee on Education; Sen. Tony Otto of Chuuk State, chairman of the Committee on Health and Social services; and Sen. Paliknoa K. Welly from the State of Kosrae, chairman of the Committee on External Affairs, will appreciate your presence at this important meeting. For more information contact Pastor Kohne Ramon at 235-4899. (PR)

Progress reports for Kagman schools

For all Kagman schools (Kagman High School, ChaCha Jr. High, and Kagman Elementary School), the North East Cluster Schools' Joint Progress Report is set for release on Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2012.

All Kagman schools will have a half-day schedule; dismissal is at 12:45pm.

All teachers from Kagman High School and ChaCha Jr. High School will gather at Kagman Elementary School to distribute the second quarter progress reports on Dec. 19, 2012, from 3pm to 5:30pm.

Teachers will be prepared to give out their contact information (e-mail or work phone) at this event so that parents can make appointments to talk more about a child's progress and follow up from this December meeting.

Kagman High School will

distribute progress reports not picked up on Dec. 19 at the GTC Elementary School on Thursday, Dec. 20, from 2pm to 4:30pm or at Tanapag Elementary School on Friday, Dec. 21 from 2pm to 4:30pm. This will allow families in the north access to their high school student's progress report if they cannot make it on Wednesday, Dec. 19.

For more information, call the KHS main office at 664-3840, COJHS at 664-4100, or KES at 664-3911. (PR)

Change to Energy Star Rebate Program

The CNMI Energy Division is informing all prospective recipients of the Energy Star Rebate Program that the redemption period for all appliance rebate vouchers will now be for 30 days from date of issuance, instead of 90 days, as indicated in the terms and conditions of

the program.

Effective, Dec. 10, 2012, all Residential Energy Star Rebate Vouchers must be redeemed within 30 days and not 90 days upon issuance of voucher. Extensions on vouchers will not be granted.

For more information, contact Shawn Pangelinan at CNMI Energy Division/ Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Office at 664-4487/4489/4490. (PR)

SSHS mid-progress reports out

Saipan Southern High School's Term 2 mid-progress report is scheduled to be picked up on Thursday, Dec. 13, from 3pm to 6pm. Teachers will be available in their classrooms for parents' and legal guardians' visit. All students will be released at 1:05pm. For more information contact the administrative office at 237-3710. (PR)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy 6th birthday to our princess Jamie Anne Tubig Reyes! Our blessing and support are always with you. May you have great year and glorious life ahead! We wish you a very happy birthday. Enjoy! Greetings come from Daddy, Mommy, Ate Juju, and Kuya JJ.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 5th birthday to Lee Ann! May you have a joyous happy day! Love, Eonzen and Nicole.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INVENTORY SALE

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.

NMHC IFB 2012-011

Cleaning Services for NMHC's Central Office in Saipan

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the **Cleaning Services for NMHC's Central Office in Saipan.**

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Monday, December 3, 2012, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office on **Thursday, December 13, 2012, at 9:00 a.m.**, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour NMHC's Central Office that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference is considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to the NMHC's Corporate Director, Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, at P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, December 14, 2012.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC-IFB 2012-011**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m.**, local time **Friday, December 28, 2012**. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m.**, local time **Friday, December 28, 2012**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **Friday, December 28, 2012**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **Monday, January 7, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **8:00 a.m.**, local time, **Tuesday, January 8, 2013**. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m.**, local time on **Friday, December 28, 2012**.

All labor on this project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$5.55 per hour which took effect on October 1, 2012 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of \$.50 per hour as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or the CNMI Department of Labor, whichever is higher.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority businesses and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible," take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in Saipan.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference," as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Hopwood students take part in cleanup



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hopwood Junior High School's MYWAVE Club and Student Council members have their picture taken after participating in a beach cleanup last Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012. Others in photo are Joanna Garcia (MYWAVE Club president), Joshua Mendiola (Student Council president), Jenn Castro (MYWAVE Club main adviser), and Clarissa Mobel (MYWAVE Club adviser). Also present but not in photo are Student Council adviser Vic Borja, MYWAVE Club advisers Connie Camacho, Sonya Olopai, Adeline Borja, and Roque Indalecio. All MYWAVE Club advisers also volunteer as Student Council advisers for their respective teams.

Hopwood Junior High School's MYWAVE Club and Student Council members coordinated a beach cleanup last Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012. Approximately 57 members and seven advisers participated

in this month's beautification project, picking up trash along the beaches and picnic areas from Sugar Dock to Hopwood Junior High School.

This cleanup was approved by the Saipan Chamber of

Commerce and Marianas Visitors Authority's "Cash for Trash" program. The MYWAVE Club members are trying to raise enough funds to attend the Guam Tourism Educational Council's annual

Tourism Summit in January 2013.

Last month, the Hopwood MYWAVE Club, sponsored by DEQ, conducted a beach cleanup from San Antonio Beach to Sugar Dock. (PR)

Federal funds available for agricultural conservation projects

HONOLULU—USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service reminds potential applicants to contact their local NRCS office soon to find out if they are eligible for the agency's most common Farm Bill Programs: Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, Agricultural Management Assistance Program, and Conservation Stewardship Program. Applications for the second ranking period of 2013 are due at NRCS offices by close of business on Dec. 21, 2012. The NRCS Office Locator is available at www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov.

"We are encouraging farmers and ranchers to utilize the federal funding available to help

improve conservation on private land," said Angel Figueroa, NRCS Director of the Pacific Islands Area.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers through contracts up to a maximum term of ten years in length. These contracts provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns and for opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forest-

land. In addition, a purpose of EQIP is to help producers meet Federal, State, Tribal and local environmental regulations.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program is a voluntary program for conservation-minded landowners who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on agricultural land, nonindustrial private forest land, and Indian land.

The Agricultural Management Assistance provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to voluntarily address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into their farming operations.

Conservation Stewardship Program is offered in all 50 states, and the Pacific and Caribbean areas through continuous sign-ups. The program provides many conservation benefits including improvement of water and soil quality, wildlife habitat enhancements and adoption of conservation activities that address the effects of climate change. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest land and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe.

Learn more about Farm Bill Programs and find out about other NRCS services at www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov. (USDA)

USDA RD now accepting 'child care facility' grant applications

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development is now accepting "child care facility" grant applications. The maximum grant amount is \$50,000.

Grant assistance may be available for up to 75 percent of project costs. A scale has been developed to predetermine grant funding limitations based on population and median household income. Grant assistance may be further limited to the minimum amount sufficient to provide economic feasibility to the proposed project.

Who is eligible

Eligibility is limited to associations, non-profit corporations, public bodies, and federally recognized Indian Tribes serving rural areas. Applicants must:

Be unable to obtain needed funds from commercial sources (with or without a loan guarantee) at reasonable rates and terms;

Have the legal authority necessary for construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed facility;

Propose facilities that are necessary for orderly community development;

Be located in a rural community having a population of 20,000 or less;

Be located in areas where the median household income of the population is below the higher of the poverty line or 90 percent of the state nonmetropolitan median household income;

Eligible applicants who have the authority to borrow funds and own, operate, and maintain a facility.

All applicants must own the facility. This is especially important if CFG funds are being used to purchase major equip-

ment or to obtain or improve real property. Long term leases may qualify.

Application deadline

The deadline to submit your application is June 1, 2013. However, given the time required to put together an application, applicants are highly encouraged to start the application process immediately.

For additional information and/or to apply contact Ivet Figueroa at (808) 658-0201 (cell); (808) 483-8605 (fax); or ivet.figueroa@hi.usda.gov. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 12, 2000

Passenger haul from Taiwan dips 29 pct.

There may be a need for the CNMI government to intensify its promotional efforts in Taiwan after Mandarin Airlines disclosed yet another discouraging statistics on tourist arrivals from Taipei in November. In an interview, Mandarin Air Saipan station manager Charlie Ling said the carrier's overall passenger load on its Saipan-Taipei route shrunk 2 percent from 63 percent in October to 61 percent last month. This translates to 665 passengers arriving from Taiwan to the Northern Marianas via Mandarin Airlines for the whole month of November, down by 29 percent from October's 936 passengers, said Ling.

Century Insurance earns ISO 9002 certification

After six months of intensive preparation, Century Insurance Co., Ltd. recently became one of the few companies in Micronesia to attain ISO 9002 international quality certification. ISO, which stands for International Organization for Standardization, is an independent standards body based in Geneva, Switzerland with a membership of approximately 130 countries that agree on common standards of high quality. For Century Insurance, the goal of attaining ISO 9002 certification involved putting in place a quality management system adhering to the rigid requirements of ISO. It included developing a comprehensive quality policy concerned with total customer satisfaction.

Dec. 12, 2001

Senate's last session still in January

Contrary to earlier reports, the Senate's Friday session on Tinian will not be a sine die-or last-session, as clarified by Senate President Paul A. Manglona. According to Manglona, he expects one more Senate session in January, before the inauguration of the new Legislature on January 14. "Actually, we're going to probably have another session a week or so before the inauguration of the 13th Senate. So, we're probably going to have two more sessions, including this coming Friday," he said.

Public input asked on changes to insurance program rules

The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund has begun soliciting comments from the public about the proposed changes to the rules and regulations governing the Group Health Insurance Program. In notices posted in several government agencies, the Fund's Board of Trustees informed the public, particularly Group Health members, that they have adopted amendments to the rules and regulations of the Group Health program and urged people to submit comments and recommendations regarding the proposed changes. "The proposed amendments would modify, clarify, add and renumerate the rules and regulations as published in the Commonwealth Register," said board chairman Vicente C. Camacho.

Dec. 12, 2002

BoH donates \$5K to NMC

Bank of Hawaii has renewed its commitment to the development and improvement of postsecondary and adult education in the CNMI with a \$5,000 donation to the Northern Marianas College-the second time this year. In making this substantial donation, Bank of Hawaii joins the ranks of individuals and private businesses that have chosen to show their community support by contributing financial assistance to NMC, while earning an Education Tax Credit under Public Law 10-73. A long-time supporter of the college, Bank of Hawaii is the principal subsidiary of the Bank of Hawaii Corp., a regional financial services company with \$14 billion assets as of year-end 2000. The Bank of Hawaii Corp. and its subsidiaries provide varied financial services to businesses, governments and consumers in Hawaii, West Pacific and American Samoa.

CUC-CDA settlement bills become law

The two bills that put into effect the settlement terms on the over \$103 million loan that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. owes the Commonwealth Development Authority has now become law even without the signature of Gov. Juan N. Babauta. House Bills 13-106 and 13-107, which the Legislature transmitted to the Office of the Governor last October 31, automatically became laws after Babauta failed to act on both measures within the statutory deadline of 40 days. The deadline was last Nov. 9. Section 7(b), Article II of the CNMI Constitution states that the governor has 20 days to consider an appropriation bill and 40 days to consider other bills. If the governor fails either to sign or veto a bill within the applicable period, it shall become law.

Illegal tuna fishing crackdown in Pacific can save \$1billion

A new data-driven process to further crack down on illegal tuna fishing in the Pacific will help reduce the loss of local fish industry earnings by up to \$1billion.

A recent two-week surveillance operation to detect illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities in the region has confirmed how necessary data collection is to deter and eliminate fish plundering from the world's biggest and most important tuna fishery.

More than 320 vessels were sighted, 206 were boarded and 27 infringements were recorded during the operation last month, November.

Kurukuru 2012 was the region's biggest ever surveillance operation and involved five maritime patrol aircraft, 12 patrol boats, a frigate and a Coast Guard boat all surveying an area of approximately 30 million square kilometers.

"Controlling illegal fishing in the region is complex," explains Bryan Scott, Fisheries IUU Liaison Officer for the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

"There are multiple organiza-

tions and nations in the Pacific that govern the rules that fishers can fish under, depending on when and where they are.

"To cross check and analyze a vessel's catch history and other information during the time of a single boat boarding is extremely difficult, because it is all paper-based."

Regional estimates put lost earnings from activities such as under-reporting or misreporting catch sizes at anywhere from the millions to over a billion.

The SPC and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency are working together to put exact figures on these losses by building a comprehensive data network.

The Kurukuru operation helped inform the early stages of a \$10-million European Union-funded project known as DEVFISH2—the Development of Tuna Fisheries in the Pacific African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries.

The project will be improving information management and data analysis as a means of providing additional deterrence for illegal fishing.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A recent two-week surveillance operation to detect illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities in the Pacific region has confirmed how necessary data collection is to deter and eliminate fish plundering from the world's biggest and most important tuna fishery.

Hugh Walton, FFA policy specialist and team leader for the DEVFISH2 project, says the measure of success of these projects is not just about the number of fishing vessels recorded or violations detected.

"There needs to be effective deterrence—proper penalties

for deliberate misreporting or underreporting catch sizes, compliance with license conditions, and the means to enforce license conditions," says Walton.

"If vessels get away with offenses they will continue to offend. But if they, for example,

Roundtable sought to strengthen region's private sector

The Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization, in collaboration with the Palau Chamber of Commerce and the Guam Chamber of Commerce, recently hosted a Private Sector Roundtable involving private sector representatives from the chambers of commerce of Palau, Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae and the Marshall Islands, Guam, Saipan, and Tinian. The meeting was held at the Ramada Hotel on Dec. 10-11, 2012.

The objectives of the meeting included institutionalization of

the private public dialogue process with the formation of the Micronesian Council of Chambers of Commerce; strengthening of national private sector organizations; and addressing specific recommendations from the 2011 dialogue with the government, particularly on transportation and energy.

This meeting gave the chambers of commerce in Micronesia the opportunity to formalize a memorandum of understanding between their individual chambers.


Ken Uyehara, an executive

board member of PIPSO and president of the Palau Chamber of Commerce, said the memorandum of understanding is a cooperative arrangement that seeks to promote networking among chambers of commerce; promote regional economic and business cooperation through the free flow of business information and trade; and promote investment in the various island economies.

PIPISO CEO Mereia Volavola said that discussions also addressed various issues affecting development of the region's

private sector, with a particular focus on tourism, transportation, and energy. She added that the agenda addressed the capacity development needs of the various chambers as well as improving the advocacy role of the private sector.

Volavola said the meeting reinforced PIPISO's commitment to developing the capacities of these chambers of commerce as PIPISO endeavors to build stronger and more strategic private sector organizations for the benefit of private sector in Micronesia. (PIPISO)



Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: <http://opacnmi.com>
1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL 2012 ELECTION CANDIDATES
and POLITICAL PARTIES

Public Law 12-18, the "Northern Mariana Islands Election Reform Act of 2000" (the Act), requires all certified candidates to file a detailed Campaign Statement of Account. This itemized Statement, prepared with the advice and co-signature of the candidate's treasurer, must show the specific source(s), name(s) of contributor(s), and amount(s) of contributions and expenses. The Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) is mandated by the Act to administer the filing of such Statements. Pursuant to the Act, failure to file a complete, signed, dated and verified Statement by **December 26, 2012**, shall subject you to a fine of up to **\$100 per day** for each day the Statement is late.

The "Campaign Statement of Account" form, suggested reports, and supporting schedules are available on OPA's website at www.opacnmi.com. Please note that filing of a "Campaign Statement of Account" form is **mandatory**.


The Act also requires that the Statement be verified under oath by the candidate/political party and the candidate's/political party's treasurer. Our office will provide free notary service to those who wish to avail themselves of this service. (Proper identification bearing both the photo and signature of the candidate and treasurer must be provided).

Notary Service Schedule:

Saipan:
Office of the Public Auditor
Monday through Friday
8am to 4:30pm

Rota:
Rota Mayor's Office (Conference Room)
Monday, December 17, 2012 – 9am to 4:30pm
Tuesday, December 18, 2012 – 9am to 12:00pm

Tinian:
Tinian Mayor's Office (Conference Room)
Thursday, December 20, 2012 – 9am to 4:30pm



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
DEPUTY CORPORATE DIRECTOR
(UNGRADED)

Opening Date: November 26, 2012 Closing Date: December 12, 2012

Job Location: NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Salary: \$58,000 per annum

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up during working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit a cover letter together with the NMHC Employment Application Form AND required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original cover letter, application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 12, 2012, **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than Wednesday, December 12, 2012, to the Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to admin@nmhc.gov.mp. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

lose their license or fishing right, the example will ripple out to other operators.

"Being able to compare data sets will allow us to do more reliable estimates of the extent of underreporting and misreporting."

The SPC and FFA aim to have the improved information management and data screening systems in place over the next 12 months.

The future database management system will help authorities quickly and accurately identify inconsistencies between fishing vessel log books and data captured from surveillance through the Vessel Monitoring System and the reports of at-sea

fisheries observers and in-port monitoring of catch landings.

The Kurukuru 2012 surveillance operation was headquartered in Honiara, Solomon Islands at the FFA Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre, and data was collected from aerial, ship and electronic surveillance sources.

The 30 million square kilometers surveyed included the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Australia, New Zealand, France and the U.S. also provided surveillance support. (SPC)



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-CHC-040

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 03, 2013 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"TO PROVIDE EVALUATION SERVICES FOR THE DPH SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION UNIT-STRATEGIC PREVENTION FRAMEWORK STATE INCENTIVE GRANT, PROJECT BRABU PROGRAM FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ JUAN N. BABAUTA
CEO, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP.

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ ROXANNE DIAZ
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-CHC-050

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 08, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TEN (10) LAPTOP COMPUTERS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION – PREPAREDNESS OFFICE"


COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/s/ JUAN N. BABAUTA
CEO – COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP.

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-011
SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF MATERIALS FOR ISLAND WIDE WATERLINE REPAIRS, SAIPAN, CNMI

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of materials for island wide waterline repairs in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 100,00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-13-011, supply and delivery of materials for island wide waterline repairs, Saipan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 08, 2013**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualifications should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on December 21, 2012 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 289

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Comprehensive reform on immigration

The partisan debate over how to reform the nation's immigration system has been stalled in Congress for the better part of a decade. Republicans shoulder much of the blame for the most recent round of legislative gridlock. They have embraced an enforcement-only approach that ignores the fact that 11 million immigrants are already living in the country illegally and won't "self-deport" (as Mitt Romney so memorably suggested), that some sectors of the economy such as agriculture rely almost entirely on illegal workers, and that an anachronistic visa process is making it harder for the United States to remain competitive in a global economy.

Thankfully, that may soon change. A growing chorus of influential Republican voices, including evangelical leaders and, most recently, former President George W. Bush, are calling for swift action on immigration reform. Last week, for example, the Republican-controlled House passed what's known as the STEM visa bill, which would provide up to 55,000 green cards a year to foreign students graduating from U.S. colleges and universities with master's and doctoral degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. And in the Senate, GOP leaders who once blocked the Dream Act of 2010 introduced a measure they called the Achieve Act that would give legal status to thousands of young undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children.

The two measures are not perfect by any means. Nevertheless, even if the proposals aren't perfect and even if they don't move forward, they indicate that Republicans are slowly recognizing that something must be done, and that more is needed than merely tighter border controls and harsher treatment of illegal immigrants. That may not seem like an enormous concession to some, but given that immigration has been on the back burner for years, it's an important shift. That's why the Obama administration and Democrats must be prepared to do their part too, and do it quickly, while Republicans are still assessing their losses.

The president must be far more involved than he was during his first term, when he offered flowery rhetoric and little else. He should present a road map for reform that not only calls for enforcing immigration laws at the border and in the workplace, but also provides a realistic plan for dealing with those undocumented immigrants who are already in the country.

Obama should also push for a guest-worker program that ensures growers a reliable source of workers while protecting the rights of those foreign farm laborers. And he should back Republican efforts to modernize the visa system to ensure that foreign graduate students aren't forced to leave the country as soon as they're handed a diploma.

Obama has said he can't repair the nation's immigration system alone. It now seems Republicans may offer a much-needed hand.

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PROCRASTINATOR'S
EXCUSE NUMBER 127:
THE MAYAN
CALENDAR



A call to arms for Syria's rebels

A new word defines the debate over Syria in Washington: endgame. Policymakers expect the regime in Damascus to fall soon, and their focus has shifted to what happens then.

In a cold-blooded, pragmatic sense, the United States and its allies don't want Bashar Assad's government to collapse immediately. Nobody's ready—inside Syria or out—to pick up the pieces. A sudden collapse could produce the same kind of chaos that enveloped Iraq after the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. And with no U.S. Army units on hand in Syria to help restore order, there is fear that the regime's chemical weapons might fall into the hands of terrorists.

That's one reason the Obama administration is strongly backing a new national coalition of Syria's political opposition as it designs a framework for a Syrian government after Assad. This week, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is expected to formally recognize the coalition as the "legitimate representative of the Syrian people," a step toward treating it as the country's transitional government. The United States has already taken steps to provide funding and other help to enable the coalition to begin governing in rebel-held areas.

But the planning has reopened old arguments in the administration on a key question: Should the United States be giving the rebels military aid as well?

So far, the administration has been exquisitely cautious; officially, the United States provides only "non-lethal aid" to the opposition. But that has sent the rebels begging elsewhere for weapons and ammunition—something they've done quite successfully. They have obtained guns from captured Syrian government stocks and from neighboring countries such as Turkey and Jordan. And they have bought weapons from Syrian soldiers and international smugglers, with cash from Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

Here's the problem: By refusing to supply weapons, the United States has been left with little say in which rebel groups receive arms. Consequently, much of the weaponry has gone to militant Islamist groups favored by Saudi and Qatari donors rather than to the Free Syrian Army, the military organization the U.S. favors.

An increasing number of U.S. officials are now arguing that the new national coalition won't succeed in winning support on the ground unless it amasses more of the currency of power in any insurrection: military supplies. They argue that the best way for the U.S. to curb the flow of weapons to radical Islamist groups, including an al-Qaida-inspired group called the Nusra Front, would be to participate directly in the arms flow.

By DOYLE MCMANUS

Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.



"We need to exercise some leadership and a management role in the arms business," argues Frederic C. Hof, who helped direct State Department policy on Syria until September. "We need to try to dominate the logistics and the decision making on who gets what and who doesn't. We need to do it working hand in glove with others; you don't want it to be seen as an exclusively American effort. ... But we've got to have some skin in the game."

Until now, the administration has hesitated to supply weapons because it hoped for a negotiated solution to the war. "We had no desire to further militarize the situation; that was one of our catchphrases," Hof said. "But that phrase is no longer relevant. ... The accelerating demise of the regime and the threat of sectarian blood-letting is destroying Syria. Time is our enemy. The worse it gets, the harder it gets for Syria to be rebuilt."

This isn't mainly about getting the rebels more weapons; those are already flowing in. It's not about them; it's about us—and the amount of influence we'll have in Syria once the insurgents win.

Officials acknowledge that President Obama and his aides are considering the arms question anew. For the moment, they're still hesitating, in part because Russia agreed last week to consider making a new appeal to Assad for a negotiated peace. The Russians, the Syrian government's most powerful ally, have long opposed any outside help to the rebels.

But almost nobody expects diplomatic appeals to work at this point. Assad has steadfastly rejected every suggestion that he step down; the rebels, who think they're winning, have little reason to negotiate unless he does.

So the question of U.S. military aid for the insurgency will be front and center as soon as the current round of diplomacy sputters out. Unless the rebels win first, in which case the United States will find itself playing catch-up, seeking influence with a new government that thinks Washington gave too little help in its hour of greatest need.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Navigating major revenue decline

It's painfully unsettling the disoriented financial posture of the NMI. It now spends more than it collects in taxes. A Department of the Interior-commissioned study confirms unbridled disposition of scarce public funds.

The administration fancy-footed to try discrediting Interior's findings as inadequate. Hold it! The people who did the review aren't local Republicans but are highly credentialed folk in their field. Therefore the administration's lame snowballing doesn't hold water.

Be that as it may, there's a shade of personal optimism, though that misty provincial politics that have blurred our vision has cleared the playground. The thunderous mandate inherent in the Voice of Sanity is a tale that our people aren't settling for more ill prioritized use of scarce funds for useless pet projects, including junkets. Otherwise, submit your applications to DCCA for sports jobs or a travel agency!

Coincidentally, Rep. Ron Paul, a libertarian, said something that echoes the essence of freedom and liberty I associate myself with in his last remarks to the U.S. Congress: "It's quite apparent that our people are seeking the truth and finding the answers in liberty and self-reliance promotes the optimism necessary for restoring trust in good governance and prosperity. The task is not that difficult if politics doesn't get in the way.

"Is there any explanation for all the deception, the unhappiness, the fear of the future, and the loss of confidence in our leaders, the distrust, the anger and frustration? Yes there is, and there's a way to reverse these attitudes. The negative perceptions are logical and a consequence of bad attitudes coupled by bad policies bringing about our problems. Identification of the problems and recognizing the cause allow the proper changes to come forthwith.

"Many of our people are unhappy with the government's performance and it recognizes that government is merely a reflection of a growing immorality that has rejected a moral government of constitutional limitations of power and love of freedom." This is what it did in loud and clear repudiation in the last midterm election.

"Too many people have for too long placed too much confidence and trust in government and not enough in the self. Fortunately,

many are now becoming aware of the seriousness of the gross mistakes of recent past. A majority of voters demand to hear the plain truth of things and want demagoguery stopped. Without this first step, solutions are impossible." How true!

Options in listless economy

The combined lack of socio-economic plan, the resulting self-inflicted disorientation, fully honed complacency and ear-to-ear smiling celebration of apathy has piled up into economic cataclysm (disaster). Wary of its failure, GOP leadership tries to change the conversation, spouting the victim syndrome. Nice try!

But weren't you elected to bring your people to higher, safer, and level prosperous ground? Did you fulfill your fiduciary duty, critically guarding the deepening economic mess from complete dystopia—where nothing works—by turning your heads the other way? Why try to rearrange the chairs on the deck when our "Canoe of Tears" has turned belly up?

Over recent past, leadership has had the opportunity to revisit the arcane tax system to see if its intended goal still works. If not, would another system be a better alternative like sales tax widely embraced by various states in the union? Did leadership take a retreat to revamp punitive and stifling policies that have chased foreign capital from the islands?

Did leadership lift a finger to revamp the pension program ensuring corresponding contribution so it is sustainable over the long haul? Were funds seriously earmarked for CHC? What did it do proactively to lower the horrendous and destructive cost of utilities with private industry expansion in mind? Did it work on a set of plans to revive reinvestment or revenue generation? Why the reticence? Were there significantly divergent views you find unpalatable?

The one thing leadership failed to do, though these issues are right below its nose, is the fact that none of these issues would move anywhere on their own. It needs someone with leadership to move in and take the beast by the horn and bring it to the appropriate venue for insightful organization, articulation, and implementation. These issues aren't rocket scientist stuff, though some require technical expertise. Does leadership have principle-based explanation for its

Mammogram doubts are health care's third rail

Three years ago, a little-known panel, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, elbowed its way into the national conversation with a startling recommendation that most women under 50 could forgo the annual mammogram.

The finding stuck a finger in the eye of conventional wisdom. A generation or more of women had come of age believing regular screening is the best way to protect oneself from dying of cancer. Arriving in the midst of President Barack Obama's health care reform effort, the recommendation fed into opponents' conviction that government was trying to force its way into life-or-death decisions.

Members of Congress blasted the task force. Doctors continued to recommend mammograms, and women kept having them.

But the findings, and the science behind them, did not go away. For more than a decade, multiple studies have advanced the argument that routine screening for some forms of cancer doesn't prevent premature death and may do more harm than good.

The findings of a large study released on Thanksgiving Day added more weight.

Research in The New England Journal of Medicine looked at more than 30 years of U.S. health statistics. It found that mammograms are effective at detecting early stage breast tumors, but they don't reduce the number of women diagnosed with advanced stage cancers.

The conclusion was that early detection doesn't save lives. Rather, it prompts millions of women to undergo expensive, intrusive treatment for tumors that would never become life-threatening.

Similar mixed messages have been sounded to men about screenings for prostate cancer. Studies have found that early detection and aggressive treatment of that disease may be unnecessary, ineffective and risky.

This is the third rail of health care—the science that no one knows how to come to grips with. Not doctors, not patients, not politicians.

Is it time to rethink the value of preventive screenings, and cut back on the costly diagnosis and treatment options that come with early detection?

"I have read widely about this, and good people are disagreeing," said Tarris Rosell, a scholar of medical ethics on staff at the Center for Practical Bioethics in Kansas City.

Doctors and politicians can quibble with the accuracy and methods of individual studies. It becomes harder to push against their combined weight.

And yet four decades of doctors' warnings and public informa-

By BARBARA SHELLY

The Kansas City Star

Barbara Shelly is a columnist for the Kansas City Star. Readers may write to her at: Kansas City Star, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108-1413, or by email at bshelly@kcstar.com.



tion campaigns will not be easily undone.

A vast industry of equipment, technology, expertise and advocacy built around screening and early detection won't be easily dismantled, either, no matter how earnestly we talk about putting the brakes on health care costs.

Personally, I would love to skip the annual mammogram. But unless or until my doctor advises me to do so, I'm not sure I will. Studies are remote; my long-time internist is real.

The screen-or-not-screen question is actually the easy part. The real dilemma comes if a mammogram or a PSA test turns up something suspicious.

Research indicates that often a low-tech treatment called watchful waiting is as effective as more aggressive interventions. But that's not how most patients or the U.S. medical system are wired.

"It's almost as if the earlier it's caught, the more conflict it causes for the patient," said Jennifer Klemp, a researcher and professor at the University of Kansas Cancer Center.

The same goes for the doctor. "The worst fear for a physician is to have to make that call," Klemp said. "They're not trained to wait. They're trained to do something."

We are at the place where technology, science and data collide. But those three elements are also the way forward.

"I'm still looking for the data that's going to give me a better basis on which to weigh in," Rosell said. "Good ethics starts with good facts."

Klemp is hoping for scientific breakthroughs that will enable doctors to predict with reasonable accuracy whether an early stage tumor will develop into a deadly form of cancer.

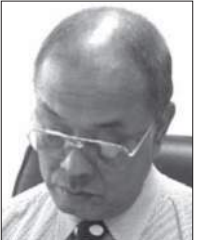
Until then, she and others on the front lines will continue to tread carefully in a terrain that is more gray than black and white.

"What they say intuitively makes sense," Klemp said of the studies that seemingly call for less screening and intervention. "But we're dealing with human beings."

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



long snooze on the job? Humiliating!

In spite of all the odds, products of "do-nothing" leadership, I'm guardedly convinced this mess could still be fixed, though it would be a very protracted process. Well, this is one time when the GOP found itself under its own bus trying to figure out if its self-induced coma really worked or otherwise.

On pension obligation bond

Jefferson County, Alabama, is saddled with an historic bankruptcy case where the city tries to ward off Wall Street banks from the \$3.2 billion it invested in a sewer system. The struggle is in the fact that the city has defaulted and finds it hard meeting its debt service.

As such, it begins seriously considering more jobs cut, a shut-down of a hospital designed for the poor, among others. Turn this around and consider what if the NMI fails to meet its debt service when it floats POB to pay off liabilities owed the Fund for a cumulative debt of at least \$2.6 billion (inclusive of power plant deal).

It may mean a huge cut on the pension and health insurance of the Fund, hospital service, cost of PSS' operations, other services from the various agencies. It's good, though, that the POB law isn't an automatic *carte blanche* authority for the administration to dispose unilaterally. It requires a study to justify whether the NMI could borrow and how much.

Lest we forget, the NMI has a very fragile economy, tourism being fickle; spiraling upward then nosediving when financial conditions shift downwards in nearby countries. Would there be other industries established here in the near term? Not with federal minimum wage and woefully poor business climate consistently stifled by punitive policies.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Saipan holds first Bereaved Family Candle Lighting event

The organizers of the Saipan Candle Lighting Remembrance Program would like to thank all those that donated to, and supported, our event: The staff and management of the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, *Marianas Variety*, Larry, Kanani and Kui Lee for their wonderful music, Thomas Lee A. Manglona II and the students of Mt. Carmel School, Whispering Palms, Gold Ribbon Enterprises, Herman's Modern Bakery, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Brilliant Star, Ben and Rita Cruz, Pete and Lucy Shilling, Agnes McPhetres, Bud and Donna White, Pete and Marcy Tomokane, Edna Buchan, Josh Burger, Suzy Kindel, and the family of Ruth Tighe.

Twenty-one children and siblings were honored with a candle and gentle memories, and another 10 attendees honored their loved ones by lighting a candle.

The program was held in conjunction with The Compassionate Friends ("TCF," <http://www.compassionatefriends.org/home.aspx>) 16th Annual Worldwide Candle Lighting Service, which was held on Dec. 9, at 7pm local time, in countries around the world.

The Compassionate Friends is a national mutual assistance, self-help organization that offers friendship, understanding and support to family members who have experienced the death of a son, daughter, brother, sister, grandchild or friend, and helps others better assist grieving families. Please contact Jill Derickson, 287-5337, or jilld@pticom.com, if you are interested in helping to start a chapter, or attending meetings.






**Maggie and Takeo George
George and Janice Sablan
Jill Derickson**

The Compassionate Friends

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

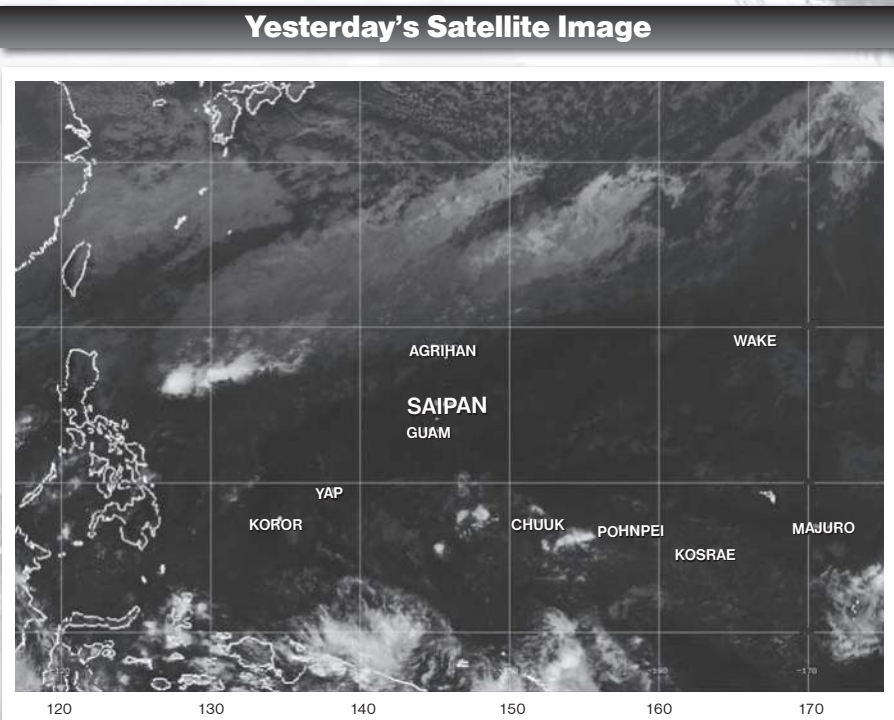
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 87° ▼ 79°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Yap	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 81
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 80

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 59
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 38 ▼ 19
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 70 ▼ 64
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 80 ▼ 71
London	Cloudy	▲ 38 ▼ 32
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 68 ▼ 52
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 64
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 83 ▼ 72
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 32
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 48 ▼ 36
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 31 ▼ 27
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 43 ▼ 31
Rome	Sunny	▲ 47 ▼ 33
Salem	Rain	▲ 45 ▼ 37
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 61 ▼ 51
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 31 ▼ 17
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 49 ▼ 33
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 51 ▼ 39

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
12:21 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
7:20 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
12:31 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
5:44 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.2 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front stretches southwestward from east-northeast of Minami Tori Shima at 25N164E to the far Northern Mariana Islands at 20N145E then continues as a nearly stationary front to beyond 130E at 17N west of 155E. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are present north of Koror, Yap and Saipan along and up to 600 miles northwest of this boundary. Winds converging along the equator are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Koror and Yap or south of a line from 1N137E to 2N140E to EQ146E. Similar weather exists southeast of Majuro between the equator and 5N from 172E to 178E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:33 AM	5:48 PM	Today	4:59 AM	4:42 PM
Thursday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM	Thursday	6:04 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM	Friday	7:08 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM	Saturday	8:08 AM	7:54 PM
Sunday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM	Sunday	9:02 AM	8:55 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOV. 21, 2012									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7		UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7	
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5		UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily	
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily		UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	Daily	
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7		UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily		UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily	
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily		UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily	
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily						
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily		DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily	
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily		DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-PUSAN (BUS)					PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN				
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7		OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 5, 6	
OZ608	3:30am	6:40am	3		OZ607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	2	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1		OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily	
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily		OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7		3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)					BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
MU7108	2:50am	5:55am	1, 3, 5		MU7107	6:30pm	1:50am+1	2, 4, 7	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)					GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6		3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)					VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN				
VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week		VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1		OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT	
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM		UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM	
DL287/173	6:00am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT		UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM	
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM		UA702/605	12:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		OZ702/605	12:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN		PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
					UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA5076/147	3:10pm	10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM		OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:20pm	Daily via ICN		UA180/5073	11:25pm	10:40am+1	1, 5 via GUM	
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.					ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)				

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE							
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				

Business

AP source: HSBC to pay \$1.9B to settle probe

WASHINGTON (AP)—HSBC, the British banking giant, will pay \$1.9 billion to settle a money-laundering probe by federal and state authorities in the United States, a law enforcement official said Monday.

The probe of the bank—Europe's largest by market value—has focused on the transfer of billions of dollars on behalf of nations like Iran, which are under international sanctions, and the transfer of money through the U.S. financial system from Mexican drug cartels.

According to the official, HSBC will pay \$1.25 billion in forfeiture and pay \$655 million in civil penalties. The \$1.25 billion figure is the largest forfeiture ever in a case involving a bank. Under what is known as a deferred prosecution agreement, the financial institution



AP
In a July 30, 2012 file photo people walk past a logo of HSBC headquarters in Hong Kong.

will be accused of violating the Bank Secrecy Act and the Trading With the Enemy Act.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the source was not authorized to speak about the matter on the

record.

Under the deferred prosecution arrangement, HSBC will admit to certain misconduct, the official said, but the details of those admissions to be made in a New York court were not im-

mediately available late Monday. Nevertheless the deferred prosecution agreement means the bank won't be prosecuted further if it meets certain conditions, such as strengthening its internal controls to prevent

money laundering. The Justice Department has used such arrangements often in cases involving large corporations, notably in settlements of foreign bribery charges.

The law enforcement official

said an announcement of the agreement could come as early as Tuesday.

The London-based bank said it is cooperating with investigations but that those discussions are confidential.

A look at money laundering settlements since 2009

British banking giant HSBC will pay a record \$1.9 billion to settle a money-laundering probe by U.S. federal and state authorities, a law enforcement official said Monday.

The probe of Europe's largest bank by market value has focused on the transfer of billions of dollars on behalf of nations such as Iran, which are under international sanctions, and the transfer of money through the U.S. financial system from Mexican drug cartels.

Since 2009, several European banks have paid heavy settlements related to allegations they moved money for people

or companies on the U.S. sanctions list.

■ Credit Suisse, Switzerland's second-largest bank, agreed to pay \$536 million. The authorities said the bank violated U.S. economic sanctions by hiding the booming illegal business it was doing for Iranian banks.

■ Barclays paid \$298 million. The big British bank allegedly engaged in \$500 million in illegal transactions with banks in Cuba, Iran, Libya, Sudan and Myanmar for more than a decade.

■ Lloyds, another major British bank, agreed to forfeit \$350

million for allegedly helping customers skirt U.S. sanctions on business transactions with Sudan, Iran and Libya.

■ Dutch bank ING paid \$619 million to settle charges that it secretly moved billions of dollars through the U.S. financial system on behalf of Cuban and Iranian customers.

■ Royal Bank of Scotland paid \$500 million for alleged money laundering at Dutch bank ABN Amro for customers from Iran, Libya, Cuba, the Sudan and other countries subject to U.S. sanctions. ABN Amro was bought in 2007 by a RBS-led consortium. (AP)

No one retreating; cliff talks seem at standstill

WASHINGTON (AP)—A year-end deadline approaching, quiet negotiations to avoid an economy-rattling "fiscal cliff" yielded no tangible signs of progress on Monday as Republicans pressed President Barack Obama to volunteer spending cuts he will support while the White House insisted the GOP endorse higher tax rates on upper incomes.

At a campaign-style event in Michigan, Obama warned his listeners their taxes will rise on Jan. 1 without action by the Congress. "That's a hit you can't afford to take," he declared.

He spoke one day after meeting privately at the White House with House Speaker John Boehner, whose office expressed

frustration with the talks to date.

"We continue to wait for the president to identify the spending cuts he's willing to make as part of the 'balanced' approach he promised the American people," said a written statement from the Ohio Republican's office.

The negotiations are designed to prevent across-the-board tax increases and spending cuts scheduled to begin at the turn of the year, a combination that economists say poses the threat of a new recession.

While leaders in both parties say they are eager to avoid that "cliff," efforts to agree on a plan to cut deficits by other measures have turned into a major postelection showdown

between opposing sides in a divided government.

After meeting with Boehner on Sunday, Obama dispatched a top aide to the Capitol to continue talks with the speaker's staff, but officials in both parties said they knew of no progress as a result.

Obama spoke with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., by phone on Monday, as he has consulted with House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California in recent days. The White House did not dispute that the president was prepared to modestly scale back his initial demand for \$1.6 trillion in new tax revenue over a decade, twice as much as Boehner has offered.

Judge: Strauss-Kahn, NYC hotel maid settle suit

NEW YORK (AP)—Former International Monetary Fund leader Dominique Strauss-Kahn and a hotel maid settled her lawsuit Monday over sexual assault allegations that sank his political career and spurred scrutiny of his dealings with women on two continents.

The housekeeper, Nafissatou Diallo, looked composed and resolute as state Supreme Court Justice Douglas McKeon announced the confidential deal. Strauss-Kahn stayed in Paris and was mum when asked about the settlement, which came after

prosecutors abandoned a related criminal case because they said Diallo had credibility problems.

"I thank everyone who supported me all over the world," Diallo, who has rarely spoken publicly since the May 2011 encounter between her and Strauss-Kahn, said softly after court.

"I thank God, and God bless you all," she added.

In a statement, Strauss-Kahn attorneys William Taylor III and Amit Mehta said the former diplomat was "pleased to have arrived at a resolution of this

matter." They credited the judge with "patience and forbearance" that fostered the agreement.

The lawsuit stemmed from an encounter in Strauss-Kahn's luxury Manhattan hotel suite.

Diallo, a 33-year-old housekeeper from Guinea, told police Strauss-Kahn forced her to perform oral sex, tried to rape her and tore a ligament in her shoulder after she arrived to clean his suite. The 63-year-old Strauss-Kahn, who has since separated from his wife, has said what happened was "a moral failing" but was consensual.

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Applicants must submit resume' showing all requirements to the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association at the 3rd Floor, TSL Plaza, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan. To be considered, resume' must be submitted no later than 5:00 pm, Monday, December 17, 2012.

Nation

Pot legalized in Colo. with gov's proclamation

DENVER (AP)—Marijuana for recreational use became legal in Colorado Monday, when the governor took a purposely low-key procedural step of declaring the voter-approved change part of the state constitution.

Colorado became the second state after Washington to allow pot use without a doctor's recommendation. Both states prohibit public use of the drug, and commercial sales in Colorado and Washington won't be permitted until after regulations are written next year.

Gov. John Hickenlooper, a Democrat, opposed the measure but had no veto power over the voter-approved amendment to the state constitution. Hickenlooper tweeted his declaration Monday and sent an executive order to reporters by email after the fact. He told reporters he didn't want to make a big deal about the proclamation, a decision that prevented a countdown to legalization as seen in Washington, where the law's supporters gathered to smoke in public to celebrate.

Fewer than two dozen people publicly marked Colorado's legalization day. A small group puffed away at 4:20 p.m. on the steps of the state Capitol, with no arrests and no police officers in sight.

"It smells like freedom," said a



In this Nov. 6, 2012 file photo, people attending an Amendment 64 watch party celebrate after a local television station announced the marijuana amendment's passage in Denver.

smiling, puffing Timothy Tipton, a longtime marijuana activist.

Colorado law gave Hickenlooper until Jan. 5 to declare marijuana legal. He told reporters Monday he saw no reason to wait and didn't see any point in letting marijuana become legal without his proclamation.

"If the voters go out and pass something and they put it in the state constitution, by a signifi-

cant margin, far be it from myself or any governor to overrule. I mean, this is why it's a democracy, right?" Hickenlooper said.

Adults over 21 in Colorado may now possess up to an ounce of marijuana, or six plants. Public use and sale of the drug remain illegal.

Colorado and Washington officials both have asked the U.S. Department of Justice for guid-

ance on the laws that conflict with federal drug law. So far the federal government has offered little guidance beyond stating that marijuana remains illegal and that the Controlled Substances Act will be enforced. Of special concern for state regulators is how to protect state employees who violate federal drug law by complying with state marijuana laws.

Top Jindal aides use personal email to strategize

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—Top officials in Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal's administration used personal email accounts to craft a media strategy for imposing hundreds of millions of dollars in Medicaid cuts—a method of communication that can make it more difficult to track under public records laws despite Jindal's pledge to bring more transparency to state government.

Emails reviewed by The Associated Press reveal that non-state government email addresses were used dozens of times by state officials to communicate last summer about a public relations offensive for making \$523 million in health care cuts. Those documents weren't provided to AP in response to a public records request.

Jindal, now in his second

term, has become a leading voice among Republican governors and is considered a potential presidential candidate. Though Jindal wasn't included in the email discussions reviewed by the AP, his spokeswoman said the governor uses a private email account to communicate with immediate staff.

The practice folds into a national debate over the use of personal email accounts by government officials to discuss official business.

The issue was a prominent one during the administration of former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, and the practice occurred during former Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's term as Massachusetts governor.

Palin's use of private email accounts as governor prompted a lawsuit in which the Alas-

ka Supreme Court ruled that officials using private email accounts for public business need to keep documents "appropriate for preservation" under the state's records management act. In response, her successor has instructed employees to use state email for conducting state business.

While governor in Massachusetts, Romney used two private email addresses to communicate with aides, develop policy and political strategy and edit op-ed articles and press releases. The communications were legal under Massachusetts law, but state public officials deemed them public records and subject to archiving.

The head of a nonpartisan watchdog group that tracks public records issues said government officials often use private email accounts to try

to sidestep disclosure laws designed to provide sunshine in government.

"Absolutely people use private accounts to hide things," said Kenneth Bunting, executive director of the National Freedom of Information Coalition, based at the University of Missouri. "If government business is conducted or information about it is sent or received on personal computers or through personal email accounts, that does not keep it from being the public's business."

While some states consider electronic communications public material and subject to the same restrictions as paper records, many others provide little or no oversight. At least 26 states view the use of private emails as public records, but the rest have no clear rules or prevailing case law on their use.

The U.S. Attorney's Office issued a statement Monday shortly after Hickenlooper's announcement restating its position.

Hickenlooper also announced a state task force Monday to help craft the marijuana regulations. The 24-member task force includes law enforcement, agriculture officials and marijuana advocates.

The governor admonished the task force not to ponder whether marijuana should be legal.

"I don't think we benefit anyone by going back and turning over the same soil. Our job is to move forward," he said.

Hickenlooper told the task

force to "work to reconcile Colorado and federal laws such that the new laws and regulations do not subject Colorado state and local governments and state and local government employees to prosecution by the federal government."

Colorado's marijuana measure, Amendment 64, was approved with 55 percent of the vote last month. One of the authors of Colorado's pot amendment, Mason Tvert, called the declaration "truly historic."

"We are certain that this will be a successful endeavor and Colorado will become a model for other states to

Solid evidence elusive in right-to-work debate

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—Gov. Rick Snyder says one reason he supports right-to-work legislation in Michigan is the economic boost a similar law has given Indiana, although officials have provided no conclusive evidence that the policy by itself has drawn new businesses to the state next door.

It's an example of the flurry of claims supporters and opponents were making as the Michigan Legislature prepared to reconvene Tuesday for what could be final votes on right-to-work bills that have inspired fierce protests from unions and their Democratic allies, including President Barack Obama. Lansing authorities were bracing for an onslaught of demonstrators, increasing police presence and planning road closings and parking restrictions around the Capitol.

Snyder, a Republican who said repeatedly during his first two years in office that right-to-work wasn't a priority for him, reversed course last week by endorsing bills that would prohibit requiring nonunion employees to pay unions for negotiating contracts and other services. Within hours, bills were rushed through the GOP-dominated House and Senate as Democrats angrily objected and chanting union activists clogged the hallways.

During a news conference

explaining his decision, Snyder said he had been impressed by results in Indiana, another Rust Belt state and historical labor stronghold that enacted a right-to-work law earlier this year.

"They've had 90 companies in the pipeline for economic development say this was a factor in deciding to look to come to Indiana," he said. "That's thousands of jobs. We need more and better jobs in Michigan."

Spokeswoman Sara Wurfel said Snyder's comment was based on information provided by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. She said the agency had reported that 67 of those prospective companies had "progressed to the pipeline stage."

"Of these 67 companies, 31 companies have already accepted the IEDC's offer, accounting for more than 3,700 projected new jobs and more than \$431 million in investment," Wurfel said in an email, referring to information provided by the Indiana agency.

It was unclear what was meant by "the pipeline stage" or "the IEDC's offer." Katelyn Hancock, spokeswoman for the Indiana agency, told The Associated Press that "90 companies have communicated to the IEDC that Indiana's enactment of right-to-work will factor into their decision-making process of where to locate current projects."



ACROSS THE NATION

NY-based group: 232 journalists jailed worldwide

NEW YORK (AP)—The Committee to Protect Journalists said in a report Tuesday that a record number 232 journalists are imprisoned worldwide and that Turkey has the highest number with 49 journalists behind bars. The total is 53 more than the tally last year

and is the highest number since the New York-based organization began conducting worldwide surveys in 1990. The census of journalists behind bars on Dec. 1 found that anti-state charges such as terrorism, treason and subversion were the most common made against journalists in 2012. At least 132 journalists are being held around the world on such

charges, CPJ said.

FAA: 3 killed in medical helicopter crash in Ill.

ROCKFORD, Ill. (AP)—Authorities say a medical helicopter has crashed in northern Illinois, killing all three people on board. The Federal Aviation Administration reports the helicopter crashed Monday night

while traveling from Rockford, near the Wisconsin border, to a hospital about 60 miles south in Mendota. The helicopter was registered to Rockford Memorial Hospital. Hospital spokeswoman Laura Maher says no patients were on board when the helicopter crashed around 8:30 p.m. into a field in Rochelle, about midway between the two cities.

Mass. arm wrestler convicted in wife's death

WORCESTER, Mass. (AP)—A champion arm wrestler from Massachusetts has been convicted in the death of his wife, who jumped out of a window to escape him. Forty-one-year-old Allen Stilkey of Worcester (WUS'-tur) was convicted Monday of man-

slaughter. His wife, Lisa, jumped from a second-floor window of their home in February during what authorities said was a violent argument. Prosecutors say Stilkey threatened to kill his wife first. They say he had recently taken out a \$250,000 life insurance policy on her. Stilkey's lawyer maintains his client was not responsible for his wife's death.

Asia

Meeting delay a sign of cooling US-Vietnam ties

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—The U.S. and Vietnam, former enemies who share concerns about China's rise, are finding that one issue—human rights—is keeping them from becoming closer friends.

Stress between the nations is clear from a delay in an annual meeting between Washington and Hanoi on human-rights concerns. Such consultations have been held every year since 2006, but the last ones in November 2011 produced little, and a senior State Department official said the two sides were still working to “set the parameters” of the next round so it would yield progress.

The U.S. is frustrated over Vietnam's recent crackdown on bloggers, activists and religious groups it deems a threat to its grip on power, and over the detention of an American citizen

on subversion charges that carry the death penalty.

“We have not seen the improvements that we would like,” the State Department official said last week on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment publicly. “We would very much like to see concrete actions.”

The delay in holding the meeting, to be hosted by Hanoi, could just be a matter of weeks. But it underscores how Vietnam's worsening treatment of dissidents over the last two years has complicated efforts to strengthen its ties with the U.S.

Vietnam's foreign affairs ministry spokesman Luong Thanh Nghi said the human rights dialogues had “contributed to enhancing trust” between the two countries and that both sides were in discussion on the timing of the next round. A U.S. Embassy spokes-



In this undated file photo, Vietnamese-American pro-democracy activist Nguyen Quoc Quan is seen in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

man also said the countries were discussing when to hold the talks.

Like Washington, Vietnam wants deeper trading and security

relations, but the U.S. says it must be accompanied by improvements in human rights. Some influential members of Congress are also pressing the Obama administration to get tougher on Hanoi's suppression of dissent and religious freedom.

Vietnam's relationship with the U.S. has improved greatly in recent years, largely due to shared concerns over China's increasing assertiveness in Southeast Asia. Their shared strategic interests are reflected most clearly in U.S. diplomacy in the South China Sea, where Beijing's territorial claims clash with those of Vietnam and four other countries in the region.

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, Vietnam has opened its economy but has been unwilling to grant religious or political freedom to its 80 million people. The U.S. and Vietnam restored

diplomatic relations in 1995, 20 years after the end of the Vietnam War, and their rapprochement has accelerated as President Barack Obama has prioritized stronger ties with Southeast Asia.

Vietnam's crackdown on dissent follows a downturn in its once robust economy. Analysts say Hanoi's leadership is defensive about domestic criticism of its economic policies, corruption scandals and infighting, much of it being spread on the Internet, out of their control.

Last year, Vietnam locked up more than 30 peaceful activists, bloggers and dissidents, according to Human Rights Watch. This year, 12 activists have been convicted in short, typically one-day trials, and sentenced to unusually long prison terms. Seven others are awaiting trial. The country is also preparing laws to crack-down on Internet freedoms.

Pakistan: US drone strike kills al-Qaida commander

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—A U.S. drone strike has killed an al-Qaida commander in Pakistan's northwest, the second member of the Islamic militant network killed in the area in less than a week, Pakistani intelligence officials and a Taliban militant said Monday.

Mohammad Ahmed al-Mansoor died Sunday when drone-launched missiles hit a house in Tabbi village in the North Waziristan tribal area, the main sanctuary for al-Qaida and Taliban fighters in the country,

the officials and militant said. Al-Mansoor was a close aide to senior al-Qaida leader Sheikh Khalid bin Abdel Rehman al-Hussainan, who was killed in a drone strike in North Waziristan on Thursday, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media. Al-Hussainan was also known as Abu Zaid al-Kuwaiti.

Covert CIA drone strikes have killed a series of senior al-Qaida and Taliban leaders in Pakistan's tribal region over the

past few years. The attacks are controversial because the secret nature of the program makes it difficult to determine how many civilians are being killed.

Pakistani officials often criticize such strikes as a violation of the country's sovereignty, which has helped make them extremely unpopular in the country. But senior Pakistani officials are known to have cooperated with strikes in the past, and many people believe they still do.

There were conflicting ac-

counts of who died in the strike Sunday along with al-Mansoor.

The intelligence officials said his wife and son were also killed, while the militant said two Punjabi Taliban fighters died with him. The Taliban militant spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of being targeted by the government.

Al-Qaida's central leadership in Pakistan has been dealt a series of heavy blows in the past few years, including the U.S. commando raid that killed Osama bin Laden in the Pakistani

town of Abbottabad last year. A significant number of senior al-Qaida leaders have also been killed in U.S. drone attacks in the country.

Also Monday, Taliban militants armed with a rocket, hand grenades and automatic weapons attacked a police station in northwestern Pakistan, killing six people, police said.

The attack occurred in the city of Bannu, which serves as a gateway to the North Waziristan tribal area and which has been hit by repeated attacks over the years.

Attacks kill Afghan police chief, official



An Afghan woman marches, as others hold photos of Afghans who were killed in the past three decades of war and violence, during a demonstration for human rights in Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday, Dec. 10, 2012.

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—A Taliban bombing killed an Afghan provincial police chief and gunmen fatally shot an official in charge of women's affairs on

Monday—the latest victims of a campaign targeting government officials across Afghanistan.

The police chief for Nimroz province was travelling home

from neighboring Herat province when his vehicle struck a roadside bomb in the morning hours, said the chief's secretary Obaidullah, who goes by only one name.

The police chief, Gen. Mohammad Musa Rasouli, was seriously wounded and was rushed to the hospital, where he died of his wounds, said the

secretary. Rasouli was returning to his job in Nimroz after a short break in Herat province, Obaidullah said.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said the insurgency had been tracking Rasouli and targeted him.

“We are continuing to target government officials,” Ahmadi said.

Also Monday morning, gunmen shot and killed the head of the women's affairs department for the eastern Laghman province, said Sarhadi Zewak, a spokesman for the provincial government.

Najia Sediqi was on her way to the office from her home on the outskirts of the provincial capital when she was attacked, Zewak said. She took the job after her predecessor, Anifa Safi, died in a bomb attack in July.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for Sediqi's killing. Police are investigating, Zewak said. A statement from Afghan President Hamid Karzai condemned the killing of Sediqi as a “terrorist attack.”

The latest attacks come after the attempted assassination of the country's spy chief, Asadullah Khalid, on Thursday. He was seriously injured when a suicide bomber posing as a Taliban peace envoy detonated a hidden explosive.

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH says it would welcome stronger Japan

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines says it would welcome a more active Japanese military and changes to Japan's pacifist constitution so it can provide a counterbalance to China in the region. China has ongoing territorial disputes with the Philippines and Vietnam in the South China Sea, and with Japan over islands in the East China Sea. Foreign Affairs Department spokesman Raul Hernandez quoted Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario as saying Monday that Manila would “welcome a stronger Japan” to “serve as a balancing factor in the region.” According to Hernandez, del Rosario said in an interview that Manila “would welcome” constitutional changes allowing Japan to have a more active armed forces. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Le said that with the cold war over, there's no need for one country to counterbalance another.

Panel: Fault under Japan nuke plant may be active

TOKYO (AP)—A team of Japanese geologists says a seismic fault running underneath a nuclear plant in western Japan is likely to be active, which could force the scrapping of one of its two reactors. The five-member panel commissioned by the Nuclear Regulation Authority announced Monday that the structure underneath the Tsuruga plant showed signs of seismic movement around 100,000 years ago, recent enough to still be active. Japanese guidelines prohibit nuclear facilities above active faults. Tsuruga's No. 2 reactor sits directly above the fault and would have to be scrapped if the panel's conclusion is officially accepted.

Indonesia captures terrorist who escaped jail

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian police say they have captured a convicted terrorist who escaped detention by disguising himself in a burqa. Roki Aprisdianto was sentenced to six years behind bars in 2011 for masterminding a series of bombings. Last month, he escaped from the Jakarta Police detention center after a group of burqa-clad women came to visit their husbands. He is thought to have put on one of the full-body veils. National police spokesman Brig. Gen. Boy Rafli Amar said Tuesday that Aprisdianto was back in jail after police arrested him near a bus station in East Java.

World

Egypt's president behaves like his predecessors

CAIRO (AP)—The freshly scrawled graffiti depicting Mohammed Morsi as a pharaonic Saddam Hussein tells the tale of high hopes dashed with record speed: Barely six months after becoming Egypt's first democratically elected president, the

Islamist is widely accused of abandoning pledges of inclusive government for doctrinaire and authoritarian ways.

Some say it should come as no surprise: heavy-handed rule has a history in Egypt and in much of the region—as do un-

fulfilled promises of reform.

In the past three weeks alone, Morsi has given himself near-absolute powers; placed himself above any oversight; allowed or looked the other way when his supporters set upon peaceful protesters outside his palace

or besieged the nation's highest court to stop judges from issuing an unfavorable ruling; and, ominously, indicated he was spying on his foes.

Borrowing a page from his predecessors' governance manual, Morsi justified his actions by speaking, albeit cryptically, of a "conspiracy" aimed at destroying state institutions and derailing the transition to democracy. He offered no evidence to back his allegation, saying only that he would do everything he can to protect the nation.

"I see what you don't see," he told state television a week after

he touched off a political crisis Nov. 22 by issuing decrees that gave him sweeping powers.

The actions of the 61-year-old, U.S.-trained engineer have a lot to do with a political system that in six decades of de facto military rule has grown accustomed to having one man with all the power concentrated in his hands. Some in Egypt argue that one-man rule is an enduring legacy of pharaonic times when the leader was treated as a god.

In Morsi's case, critics and analysts believe his actions are dictated by the powerful group he hails from, the Mus-

lim Brotherhood, although they only have anecdotal evidence to support that contention.

"In the final analysis, he is a dictator," said analyst and former lawmaker Emad Gad. "But he is only carrying out the will of the Brotherhood after he promised to be a president for all Egyptians."

Gad and others were surprised that Morsi made the power grab so quickly.

But Gehad el-Haddad, a Brotherhood spokesman, dismissed charges that Morsi embraced an autocratic style of governance, emphasizing the president's popular election.



AP
Graffiti depicting Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi as a pharaoh and Arabic that reads, "void," covers a wall in Tahrir Square in Cairo, Egypt., Monday, Dec. 10, 2012.

Syrian rebels capture parts of army base in north

BEIRUT (AP)—Rebels captured part of a sprawling Syrian army base outside the embattled northern city of Aleppo, tightening the opposition's grip on areas close to the Turkish border, activists said Monday.

The gains by rebel forces came as the European Union denounced the Syrian conflict, which activists say has killed more than 40,000 people.

"The current situation in Syria is a stain on the world's conscience and the international community has a moral duty to address it," European Commission president Jose Manuel Barroso said in Oslo as the EU received the Nobel Peace Prize.

The rebels also killed 13 soldiers in an ambush near a strategic northern town along a road linking Aleppo, the nation's largest city and business hub, with Damascus, and captured 20 soldiers and policemen at a

major post on the highway linking the central town of Salamiyeh with the northern city of Raqqa, activists said.

Once on the defensive, Syria's rebels have gained momentum in recent weeks with a number of tactical advances, seizing airbases near Damascus and Aleppo and putting President Bashar Assad's forces on their heels.

In an interview with Dubai TV, Syria's top military defector said Assad's regime is "over" and advised the president to leave office and let the country's people decide their own fate.

Manaf Tlass, a Syrian general who was the first member of Assad's inner circle to break ranks and join the opposition, said "we are at a turning point and the train of the revolution will be victorious." Tlass, who defected in July, said he urged Assad to listen to the people's

demands and implement serious reforms.

"I used to talk to the president four times a day and I used to see him every other day. I tried to convince him to react with the rebels. He always avoided answering and used to say they are armed gangs," Tlass said from Paris, where he has been spending much of his time.

"I told him tens of times, and sometimes in a loud voice that 'you should be with your people' and he did not answer," Tlass said. "It's over ... I advise him to leave."

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the rebels entered the Sheikh Suleiman military base outside Aleppo on Sunday afternoon, after weeks of fighting around the facility. Last month, they captured another base near the city, the Syrian army's 46th Regiment base.

Israel's Netanyahu: World has double standards

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's prime minister on Monday accused the international community of "deafening silence" in response to recent vows by the head of the Hamas militant group to fight on until the Jewish state is destroyed, and appeared unmoved by the gathering storm of global condemnation of his government's plans to continue settling the West Bank.

Benjamin Netanyahu's tough words were likely to deepen the rift between Israel and some of its closest allies, particularly in Europe, that has emerged since the U.N. General Assembly overwhelmingly voted in favor of Palestinian independence last month. In a sign of the tense relations, European Union foreign ministers were gathered in Brussels to condemn new settlement construction that Netanyahu has authorized in response to the U.N. decision.

Speaking to foreign report-

ers, Netanyahu accused the international community of having double standards, condemning not-yet-built settlements in the West Bank while standing quiet during a historic visit to the Gaza Strip by Hamas' exiled leader, Khaled Mashaal.

Making his first trip to the Hamas-ruled territory over the weekend, Mashaal delivered a series of speeches to throngs of supporters vowing to wipe Israel off the map. The visit underscored Hamas' rising clout and regional acceptance since its eight-day conflict with Israel last month. Netanyahu also directed his ire at Hamas' rival, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, for not speaking out.

"This weekend the leader of Hamas, sitting next to the Hamas leader of Gaza, a man who praised Osama Bin Laden, this weekend openly called for the destruction of Israel. Where was the outrage?

Where were the U.N. resolutions? Where was President Abbas?" Netanyahu said.

"Why weren't Palestinian diplomats summoned to European and other capitals to explain why the PA president not only refused to condemn this but actually declared his intention to unite with Hamas. There was nothing, there was silence and it was deafening silence," he added.

Netanyahu has long complained that the world unfairly singles out Israel for criticism. In Monday's address, he accused the United Nations of passing an unbalanced resolution that supported Palestinian independence but did not address Israeli security concerns.

The U.N. resolution recognized a Palestinian state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem, territories captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war. Just eight countries sided with Israel in opposing the vote.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mali's PM resigns after being arrested by junta

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—Mali's prime minister resigned on state television early Tuesday, hours after soldiers who led a recent coup burst into his home and arrested him, in the latest sign of the volatile political situation in this once-stable nation in West Africa. Prime Minister Cheikh Modibo Diarra addressed the nation, saying: "Our country is living through a period of crisis. Men and women who are worried about the future of our nation are hoping for peace. 'It's for this reason that I, Cheikh Modibo Diarra, am resigning along with my entire government on this day, Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2012. I apologize before the entire population of Mali,'" he said.

Hugo Chavez's heir tears up over cancer battle

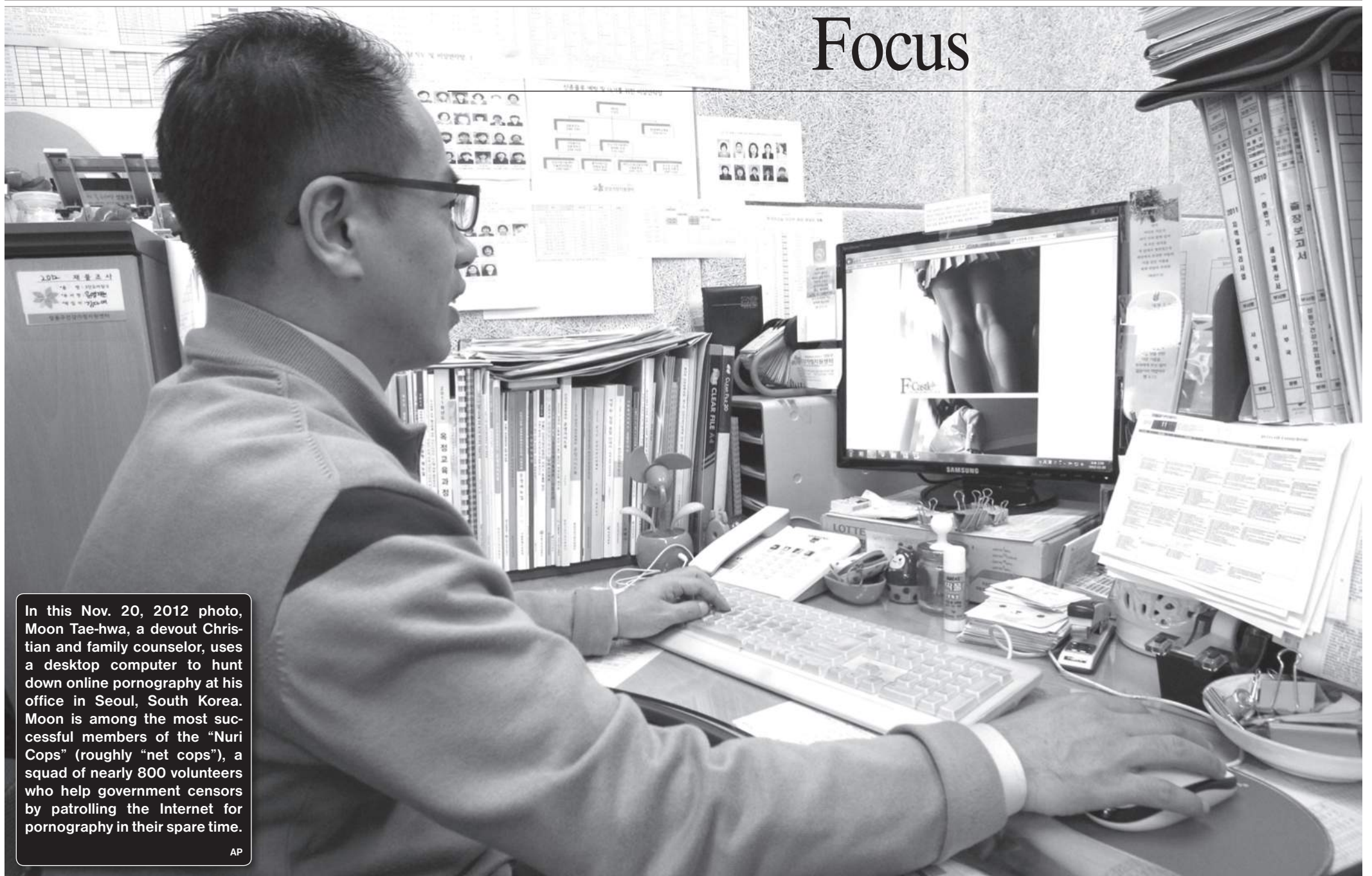
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's cancer relapse and his sudden announcement that he will undergo a fourth cancer-related surgery in Cuba have thrown the country's future into question, and his designated political heir has begun trying to fill the void. Underlining the gravity of the situation, Vice President Nicolas Maduro broke into tears on Monday at a political rally hours after Chavez

flew to Havana. "Chavez has a nation, he has all of us, and he'll have all of us forever in this battle," said Maduro, who wiped away tears while speaking to supporters. "Even beyond this life, we're going to be loyal to Hugo Chavez."

Mexican leader proposes sweeping education reform

MEXICO CITY (AP)—President Enrique Pena Nieto is proposing sweeping reforms to a public education system widely seen as moribund, taking on an iron-fisted union leader who is considered the country's most powerful woman and the main obstacle to change. Flanked by the leaders of Mexico's three major political parties, Pena Nieto said Monday that he would send the initiative to Congress within hours to create a professional system for hiring, evaluating and promoting teachers without the "discretionary criteria" currently used in a system where teaching positions are often bought or inherited. The plan, with multi-party support, moves much of the control of the public education system to the federal government from the 1.5 million-member National Union of Education Workers, led for 23 years by union president Elba Esther Gordillo, who under current law hires and fires teachers and has been accused of using union funds as her personal pocket book.

Focus



In this Nov. 20, 2012 photo, Moon Tae-hwa, a devout Christian and family counselor, uses a desktop computer to hunt down online pornography at his office in Seoul, South Korea. Moon is among the most successful members of the "Nuri Cops" (roughly "net cops"), a squad of nearly 800 volunteers who help government censors by patrolling the Internet for pornography in their spare time.

AP

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Moon Tae-Hwa stares at his computer, dizzy and nauseous from the hours of porn he's viewed online while his wife and children slept. He feels no shame—only a righteous sense of mission.

"I feel like I'm cleaning up dirty things," the devout Christian and family counselor said.

Moon is among the most successful members of the "Nuri Cops" (roughly "net cops"), a squad of nearly 800 volunteers who help government censors by patrolling the Internet for pornography in their spare time.

Unlike most developed nations, pornography is illegal in South Korea, though it remains easy for its tech-savvy population to find. More than 90 percent of South Korea's homes have high-speed Internet access, and more than 30 million of its 50 million people own smartphones.

"It's like shoveling snow in a blizzard," Moon conceded.

But while there is no chance the government will wipe out porn, it also shows no sign of giving up the fight. In fact, it has responded to several recent high-profile sex crimes with a fresh crackdown.

More than 6,400 people accused of producing, selling and posting pornography online were arrested over a six-month period ending in late October.

"Obscene materials and harmful information that can be easily accessed on the Internet are singled out as one cause inciting sex crimes," President Lee Myung-bak said in a radio address in September.

Free-speech advocates disagree with the government's unrelenting stance.

"It's a reign of terror against sex," Ma Kwang Soo, a Korean literature professor at Seoul's Yonsei University and author of a book that South Korea banned because of its sexual content. "No country in the world has ever reported that ban-

SKorea's porn fight 'like shoveling in a blizzard'

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ning porn results in a drop in sex crimes."

Reported sex crimes have risen sharply over the past decade in South Korea, though researchers with the state-run Korean Institute of Criminology have said they believe the biggest reason is that victims have become more willing to report abuse.

The institute said more than 18,000 people were arrested on rape charges in 2010, up from less than 7,000 in 2000. Sex crimes against minors, meanwhile, more than quintupled, from about 180 cases in 2000 to about 1,000 in 2010, according to the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family.

Critics of South Korea's stance note that when it comes to child pornography, which is banned virtually everywhere, the country's laws have been relatively soft. Possessing child porn brings a maximum one-year prison sentence, and until recently had been punishable by just a fine.

South Korea has a history of censorship nurtured by decades of military-backed rule that ended only in the late 1980s. It also has a large and active conservative Christian population and a deep-rooted strain of Confucian morality. Yet it has also become one of the world's most technologically advanced countries.

Censorship of movies, songs and news

media has gradually eased since South Korea achieved democracy, but the government blocks foreign websites containing pornography and shuts down those operating within South Korea.

The job seems endless, however, so police turn to the Nuri Cops, who include university students, information technology workers, professors and housewives.

"Police officers can't look at all the obscene material online, so their role, which is reporting illegal sites that need to be blocked, is very important," senior police officer Lee Byeong-gui said of the volunteers.

Over two weeks in August, the squad reported more than 8,200 cases of online porn during a police-organized contest.

Police say they have recently shut down 37 websites, and another 134 sites are under investigation on porn-related charges. Authorities also deleted many porn materials from other websites, though Moon said much of the porn re-emerged in slightly different form days after being removed.

Some Nuri Cops acknowledge that they are fighting an increasingly difficult battle against a relentless enemy. They've also faced complaints from their sometimes baffled spouses and friends, and endured venom from anonymous online porn enthusiasts.

"They've called me the enemy of South Korean men," Bae Young Ho, a Nuri Cop who works as a real estate broker, said of his online critics. He said he found about 5,000 malicious messages attacking him in the comments section of an online story about his work.

The volunteers also find the work itself to be disturbing.

"It's easy to find smut on the Internet, but it's difficult for me to watch," Moon said in an interview at his Seoul home. "It's disgusting and it bothers me because the images I see linger in my head for so long."

Moon, who was ranked the top anti-porn monitor in 2010 and second this year, said he and other Nuri Cops keep going because they feel that society benefits from their work.

Opponents of pornography point to several recent horrifying sex crimes as reasons to try to stamp it out.

A man was sentenced to life in prison this year for strangling a woman after a failed rape attempt, then chopping her body into 280 pieces that he hid in plastic bags at his home south of Seoul. The man told investigators he watched pornographic movies while cutting up the victim's body.

Another man got a life sentence for strangling a 10-year-old girl living in his

neighborhood after a failed rape attempt. He was found to have dozens of child porn films in his computer.

South Korean law punishes those who distribute, sell or display obscene materials on the Internet with up to one year in prison. There's no punishment for watching or possessing cyberporn.

The National Assembly recently passed a law raising - from seven years to 10 years - the maximum sentence for distributing, selling or displaying child pornography for commercial purposes. Legislators also made possessing child pornography punishable by up to a year in prison; previously, the maximum punishment had been a fine of 20 million won (about \$18,500).

The prime minister's office says it will seek to have all movie download sites and smartphones used by minors equipped with anti-porn filtering systems. Anti-porn campaigners also want authorities promote sex-education programs aimed at countering the effects of pornography among children.

Some South Koreans believe the government's approach should be more nuanced. Lee Bong Han, a former police officer who teaches at Deajeon University, said it's time for South Korea to legalize less extreme and nonviolent pornography, which he believes can be used in clinics that treat sex problems.

Ma, the professor who advocates for porn legalization, doubts that such changes will come anytime soon. He sparked a national debate in the early 1990s after authorities arrested him and banned his book "Happy Sara," about a female university student exploring her sexual freedom.

"It's been 20 years since I was arrested ... but South Korean culture hasn't democratized yet," Ma said.

"Happy Sara," he added, is still banned.

Campus Life

39 parents complete adult literacy course sessions

Eight Head Start centers have successfully completed a series of Motherread/Fatherread adult course trainings for the 2012 fall schedule. Adult literacy courses were held at the San Antonio center, Dandan center, Chalan Kanoa center, Tanapag center, Kagman center, JMR (Garapan) center, Oleai center, and Tinian center. Each center concluded their class sessions with a mini-certificate awarding ceremony and refreshments afterwards.

The CNMI Motherread/Fatherread program covers three major activities that define family literacy in the Head Start

Program. 1) Parent and child literacy activity. 2) Training for parents as the primary teacher of their children. 3) Age-appropriate education for children that prepares them for success in school.

For the duration of the classes, parent trainers exposed participants to varied multi-cultural children's literature that will engage their children at home. Effective research-based techniques and strategies were shared in the course that will lay the foundation for reading success. Motherread certified trainers also emphasized the role that parents play as the first teacher

of their child, and that a lifetime of literacy starts at home.

Motherread certified trainers who facilitated the adult courses for this cycle were Celina Foreman, Leila Staffler, Fred Camacho, Nolyn Villagomez, Bryan Manabat, Lilia King, and Evelyn Evangelista. Story sharing instructors that worked with the participant's children were Joselyn Eusebio of Gospel Light Day Care Center, Romeo Silvano of Sunrise Day Care Center, Joelyn Varona, Evangeline Espanola, and Shirley Digma of SDA Day Care Center, Joan Ordon of Loving Hands Day Care Cen-

ter, and Mary Antoniette Santos of Tinian Public Library.

A total of 39 parent participants completed the course sessions. The San Antonio center participants were Rosalinda Ramos, Amri Castro, Zenaida Tuazon, Priscilla Dulay, Siomina Asep, Joan Bahilo, and Jessica Ho. Dandan center participants were Edwin Corrales, Raquel Camacho, Guillermo Santos, Tina Passi, Remedios Dela Cruz, and Rogelio Anciado. Chalan Kanoa center participants were Edel May Austin, Kimjona Taitingfong, Sophia Aldan, Dhan Thapa, and Rosalinda Bartolome. Tanapag

center participants were Tina Marquez and Jessica Santos. Kagman center participants were Margarita Fejeran, Gwyndolyn Sablan, Aprilynn Rios, Vincent Castro, and Mary Cepeda. Joaquina M. Rabauliman Center (Garapan) participants were Christina Baybay, Charmaine Mercado, Raquel Tadifa, Raynna Oveny, and Jennifer Agudo. Oleai center participants were Narlou Achas, Ayumi Litulumar, Pinelope Gail Mejia, and Lilia Labarda. Tinian center participants were Sudartian Tinbahi, Nida Dosalua, Alicia Mongornong, Marvieluz Syed, and Melissa Sanchez.

Parents who complete the course, after attending six out of eight sessions, walk away with seven new story books; start-up school supplies, book bags, and new MR/FR program T-shirts.

The next series of Motherread/Fatherread adult course cycles will begin in March 2013 for the spring schedule.

The CNMI Motherread/Fatherread program is a literacy program administered by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council. Further inquiries could be forwarded to cnmimotheread@gmail.com or contact 235-7319, 989-8542, or text at 789-6601. (PR)



Chalan Kanoa Head Start Center participants.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Joaquina M. Rabauliman Head Start Center (Garapan) participants.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Kagman Head Start Center participants.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Tanapag Head Start Center participants.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Dandan Head Start Center participants.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



San Antonio Head Start Center participants.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Oleai Head Start Center participants.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Tinian Head Start Center participants.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Life & Style

Australian DJs apologize for royal hoax call

By **KRISTEN GELINEAU**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYDNEY (AP)—They say they expected a hang-up and a few laughs. Instead, the Australian DJs behind a hoax phone call to the London hospital where the pregnant Duchess of Cambridge was being treated were deeply apologetic Monday as they described how their joke ended up going too far.

The phone call—in which they impersonated Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles—went through, and their station broadcast and even trumpeted the confidential information received. Whatever pride there had been over the hoax was obliterated by worldwide public outrage after Friday's death of Jacintha Saldanha, the first nurse they talked to.

"There's not a minute that goes by that we don't think about her family and what they must be going through," 2DayFM radio host Mel Greig told Australia's "A Current Affair," her voice shaking. "And the thought that we may have played a part in that is gut-wrenching."

Police have not disclosed the cause of Saldanha's death, but many have assumed it was related to the stress from the call. An autopsy is being held Tuesday.

Prime Minister David Cameron said at a luncheon Monday that "the suicide of this nurse, who worked incredibly hard and



In this image made off video footage recorded Monday, Dec. 10, 2012 and aired later in the day in "A Current Affair" program by Australia's Channel Nine, Australian radio DJs Michael Christian, left, and Mel Greig appear during an interview with the TV station. The two managed to impersonate Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles and received confidential information about the Duchess of Cambridge's medical condition, which was broadcast on-air.

obviously was incredibly dedicated ... is an absolute tragedy."

His office later said Cameron's comment was not an official acknowledgment that the death was a suicide.

Greig and co-host Michael Christian spoke publicly about the prank for the first time in the televised interview. Another interview on rival show "Today Tonight" also aired Monday.

The hoax has sparked broad outrage, with the hosts receiving death threats and demands they be fired.

The radio station's owner said

Greig and Christian were receiving psychological counseling to deal with the tragedy. A British lawmaker said he wished that much was being done for Saldanha's grieving family.

"They are devastated by what has happened," said Labour legislator Keith Vaz, who has visited Saldanha's husband and two children at their home in Bristol, southwest England.

"They want the facts to be established so that they can effectively grieve," Vaz said. "What is needed, clearly, is an inquiry by the hospital into how this

tragic case happened."

Both DJs apologized for the hoax and cried when asked about the moment they learned that the Saldanha was dead. But neither described having reservations before the hoax tape was broadcast; they said higher-ups at the station had made the decision to air it.

"We didn't have that discus-

sion," Greig said.

Southern Cross Austereo, the parent company of 2DayFM, released a statement Monday saying that Greig and Christian's show had been terminated and there would be a company-wide suspension of prank calls. The DJs themselves remain suspended.

Saldanha, 46, had transferred their call last week to a fellow nurse caring for the duchess, who was being treated for acute morning sickness at King Edward VII Hospital in London. That nurse said the former Kate Middleton "hasn't had any retching with me and she's been sleeping on and off."

Three days later, Saldanha was found dead at the hospital's nurses' accommodation.

The DJs said when the idea for the call came up in a team meeting, no one expected that they would actually be put through to the duchess' ward.

"We just assumed we'd get cut off at every single point and that'd be it," Christian said.

"The joke 100 percent was on us," he said. "The idea was never, 'Let's call up and get through to Kate,' or 'Let's speak to a nurse.' The joke was our accents are hor-

rible, they don't sound anything like who they're intended to be."

Southern Cross Austereo CEO Rhys Holleran has called Saldanha's death a tragedy but defended the prank as a standard part of radio culture. He has also insisted the station had not broken any laws. He told Fairfax Radio on Monday that his station had tried at least five times to contact the London hospital to discuss the prank before it aired, but never succeeded.

When asked why the company made the attempts, Holleran replied "because we did want to speak with them about it." When pressed as to whether this meant the station had reservations about the pre-recorded prank, Holleran said only, "I think that that's a process that we follow and we have checks and balances on all those things."

The King Edward VII Hospital denied that its management had been contacted by the radio station.

"Following the hoax call, the radio station did not speak to anyone in the hospital's senior management or anyone at the company that handles our media inquiries," the hospital said in a statement.

Ariel Winter's mom sues actor for defamation

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The mother of "Modern Family" actress Ariel Winter sued an associate of her adult daughter for defamation Monday, claiming he falsely labeled her an "abusive monster" in an online comment about an ongoing custody struggle for the teenage star.

Chrisoula Workman filed the defamation lawsuit against Matthew Borlenghi, claiming his comment attached to a Nov. 9 Los Angeles Times online story was false and has harmed her reputation.

Borlenghi is an actor who teaches at a studio operated by Shanelle Gray, Winter's adult sister who currently has custody of the 14-year-old actress. A judge temporarily stripped Workman of custody amid allegations she had been physically and emotionally abusive to the star.

A trial on whether Workman will be completely lose custody is scheduled to begin Wednesday.

Borlenghi said he had not yet seen the lawsuit and declined to say whether he posted a comment about the story on the Times website. The story centered on Workman's allega-

tions that Winter was having an improper relationship with an 18-year-old actor.

"This is a total falsehood," the comment attributed to Borlenghi states. "The mother is grasping and clawing to find a way not to lose her money-maker, and hide the fact that she is an abusive monster."

The comment cites personal interactions with Workman for forming the opinions in the post.

"All I can say is that David (Gray) and Shanelle Gray are very close friends of mine and comments that Chris has made are absolutely fabricated," Borlenghi said when contacted about the case. "The negative comments she's made about her own daughter in order to try to get custody back of Ariel are truly disgusting."

Workman's lawsuit includes several pages of sworn declarations from tutors and other friends and associates denying she has been abusive to her daughter. The declarations have been filed in the guardianship case and may be considered by a judge who has to determine

whether to allow Gray to continue caring for her sister.

A judge said last month that child protective investigators had evidence of emotional abuse toward Winter.

Workman has denied she has been abusive toward her daughter.

Guardianship cases in California are public record. Attorneys for Winter's sister requested the case and its proceedings be sealed, but a judge refused. The case was filed under Winter's birth name, Ariel Workman, in part to avoid attention.

Although The Associated Press does not generally name underage victims of abuse, Winter's name is being used because it is included in the public guardianship case.

Besides playing Alex Dunphy on ABC's "Modern Family," Winter's credits include appearances on several TV series, including "ER" and "Phineas and Ferb," and movies such as "Kiss Kiss Bang Bang," "Ice Age: The Meltdown" and "ParaNorman."



Winter

Message of Appreciation

In humble gratitude,
we the family of the late
Vicente Chargualaf Pangelinan,
hereby extend our sincere
appreciation for your compassion,
gestures, prayers and most
especially the expression of
condolences and sympathy that
have helped us ease our pain
and sorrow for our loss.

Special Appreciation goes out to
the Department of public Safety, EMS
and Traffic Division, CHC Staff,
Doctors, Nurses, ER and ICU, Doris
Sanchez, Marilyn P. Jones, Natibus
Kitchen, Borja's Funeral Home,
M.M Brian P. Reyes, and the
Gravesite Men

Si Yu'us Ma'ase

From the Family



NTSB confirms singer Rivera dead in Mexican plane crash

By GALIA GARCIA-PALAFIX,
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP)—U.S. authorities confirmed Monday that Jenni Rivera, a U.S.-born singer whose soulful voice and openness about her personal troubles made her a Mexican-American superstar, was killed in a plane crash in northern Mexico.

The National Transportation Safety Board said it was sending a team to help investigate the crash, and the board was told by Mexican authorities that Rivera had died in Sunday's crash.

Rivera's relatives in the U.S. already had few doubts that she was on the Learjet 25 that disintegrated on impact in rugged territory near the town of Iturbide in the Sierra Madre Oriental in Nuevo Leon state.

"I believe my daughter's body is unrecognizable," her father, Pedro Rivera, told dozens of reporters gathered in front of his Los Angeles-area home.

He said that his son would fly to Monterrey Monday or Tuesday.

Also aboard the plane were Rivera's publicist, Arturo Rivera, her makeup artist, Jacob Yebale, two friends, one named Mario Macias and another who was identified only as Gerardo, and the two pilots, said Mexico's Communications and Transportation Department in a statement.

Alejandro Argudin, of Mexico's civil aviation agency, said Monday it would take at least 10 days to have a preliminary report on what happened to the plane.

"We're in the process of picking up the fragments and we have to find all the parts," Argudin told reporters. "Depending on weather conditions it would take us at least 10 days to have a first report and many more days to have a report by experts."

Messages of condolence poured in to the Rivera family from musicians and celebrities.

Mexican songstress and actress Lucero wrote on her Twitter account: "What terrible news! Rest in peace ... My deepest condolences for her family and friends." Rivera's colleague on the Mexican show "The Voice of Mexico," pop star Paulina Rubio, said on her Twitter account: "My friend! Why? There is no consolation. God, please help me!"

Born in Los Angeles, California, Rivera was at the peak of her career as perhaps the most successful female singer in grupero, a male-dominated regional style influenced by the norteno, banda and ranchero styles.

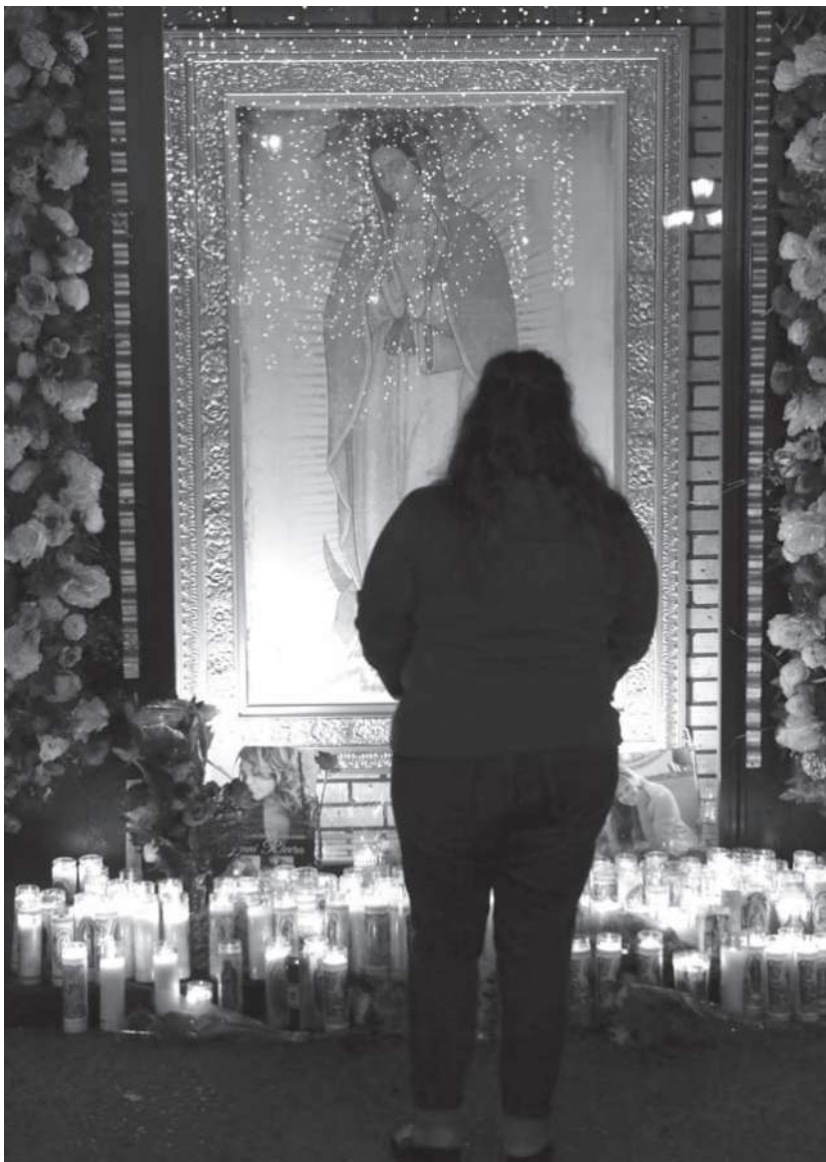
A 43-year-old mother of five children and grandmother of two, the woman known as the "Diva de la Banda" was known for frank talk about her struggles to give a good life to her children despite a series of setbacks.

She was recently divorced from her third husband, former Major League Baseball player Esteban Loaiza, was once detained at a Mexico City airport with tens of thousands of dollars in cash, and she publicly apologized after her brother assaulted a drunken fan who verbally attacked her in 2011.

Her openness about her personal troubles endeared her to millions in the U.S. and Mexico.

"I am the same as the public, as my fans," she told The Associated Press in an interview last March.

Rivera sold 15 million records, and recently won two Billboard Mexican



Fan Jenny Guerrero pays tribute to singer Jenni Rivera at a makeshift memorial in front of an image of the Virgin of Guadalupe at the Plaza Mexico shopping center in Lynwood, Calif., early Monday, Dec. 10, 2012.

Music Awards: Female Artist of the Year and Banda Album of the Year for "Joyas Prestadas: Banda." She was nominated for Latin Grammys in 2002, 2008 and 2011.

Though drug trafficking was the theme of some of her songs, she was not considered a singer of "narco corridos," or ballads glorifying drug lords like other group. She was better known for singing about her troubles in love and disdain for men.

Her parents were Mexicans who had migrated to the United States. Two of her five brothers, Lupillo and Juan Rivera, are also well-known singers of grupero music.

She studied business administration and formally debuted on the music scene in 1995 with the release of her album "Chacalosa." Due to its success, she recorded two more independent albums, "We Are Rivera" and "Farewell to Selena," a tribute album to slain singer Selena that helped expand her following.

At the end of the 1990s, Rivera was signed by Sony Music and released two more albums. But widespread success came for her when she joined Fonovisa and released her 2005 album titled "Partier, Rebellious and Daring."

Besides being a singer, she is also a businesswoman and actress, appearing in the indie film Filly Brown, which was shown at the Sundance Film Festival.

She was filming the third season of "I love Jenni," which followed her as she shared special moments with her children and as she toured through Mexico and the United States. She also has the reality shows: "Jenni Rivera Presents: Chiquis and Raq-C" and her daughter's "Chiquis 'n Control."

In 2009, she was detained at the Mexico City airport when she declared \$20,000 in cash but was really carrying \$52,167. She was taken into custody. She said it was an innocent mistake and authorities gave her the benefit of the doubt and released her.

The Learjet 25, number N345MC, with Rivera aboard took off from Monterrey at 3:30 a.m. local time en route to Toluca, and was reported missing about 10 minutes later. It was registered to Starwood Management of Las Vegas, Nevada, according to FAA records. It was built in 1969 and had a current registration through 2015.

The cause of the accident has not been determined.

According to the National Transportation Safety Board, the twin-turbojet was substantially damaged in a 2005 landing mishap at Amarillo International Airport in Texas. It hit a runway distance marker after losing directional control. There were four aboard but no injuries. It was registered to a company in Houston, Texas, as the time.

The company is also subject of a federal lawsuit in Nevada.

QBE Insurance Corp. alleges that a Starwood aircraft was ordered seized by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration when it landed in McAllen, Texas, from Mexico on Sept. 12. The New York-based insurer sued in October to rescind coverage for the Hawker 700 jet.

Starwood, in a court filing, acknowledged that the DEA was involved in the seizure of the aircraft in McAllen.

QBE, based in New York, said the DEA also seized a Starwood-owned Gulfstream G-1159A—insured by another company—when it landed in Tucson, Ariz., from Mexico in February. Starwood said in its court filing that it didn't have enough information to address the allegation.

Nevada secretary of state records list only one Starwood officer—Norma Gonzalez—but QBE alleges that the company is owned and managed by Ed Nunez, who, according to the lawsuit, is also known as Christian Esquino and had a long criminal history.

Starwood rejected the insurer's description of Nunez's role at the company.

US man sues ex-Elmo puppeteer, claims sex abuse

MIAMI (AP)—Another man on Monday sued the former Elmo puppeteer who resigned amid sex abuse allegations, claiming the voice actor befriended him in Miami and promised to be a father figure before flying the teen to New York to have sex with him.

The alleged victim is now the fourth to accuse Kevin Clash, who resigned from "Sesame Street" last month after 28 years. The three legal actions filed so far have been civil cases seeking financial compensation.

But the incident with the latest victim, referred to only as S.M., could involve criminal charges because the lawsuit claims Clash transported him across state lines for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity.

Attorney Jeff Herman said he encouraged his client to report the incident to authorities but it's unclear if the now-33-year-old alleged victim has done so.

Sexual abuse allegations against Clash triggered a media frenzy last month. He quickly denied the first claim, which was recanted the next day. But Clash then resigned after

a 24-year-old college student, Cecil Singleton, sued him for \$5 million, saying the actor engaged in sexual behavior with him when he was 15.

Singleton claims the voice actor met him in New York a dozen years ago after trolling gay telephone chat lines and seeking underage boys for sex.

In the latest case, the plaintiff said Clash approached him on Miami Beach, complimented his appearance and struck up

a friendship. Clash returned home to New York, but stayed in touch with the teen, promising to be a dad to him. The youth, who was 16 or 17 at the time, had been molested by a teacher and was considering running away from home, according to the lawsuit.

"These are all vulnerable boys. None of them had father figures in their lives and they were looking for that father figure," said Herman, who represents three of the alleged victims.

The lawsuit says Cash paid for a plane ticket from Florida to New York in 1996 and arranged for a car service to pick up the teen and bring him to

According to QBE's lawsuit, Esquino pleaded guilty in federal court in Orlando, Fla., in 1993 to conspiracy to possess and distribute cocaine. The Florida complaint alleges that Esquino and 12 others participated in a scheme to bring large amounts of cocaine and marijuana to the U.S. and bribe a Bahamian official.

QBE said Esquino also served two years in prison after pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit fraud involving an aircraft in Southern California in 2004. QBE said Esquino's attorney stated in court back then that his client had been under investigation by the DEA for more than a year.

Starwood said in its court filing that it didn't have enough information to address either the Florida or Southern California case against Esquino.

George Crow, an attorney for Starwood, did not immediately respond to phone and email messages left after business hours Monday.

There have been several high-profile crashes involving Learjets, known as swift, longer-distance passenger aircraft popular with corporate executives, entertainers and government officials.

A Learjet carrying pro-golfer Payne Stewart and five others crashed in northeastern South Dakota in 1999. Investigators said the plane lost cabin pressure and all on board died after losing consciousness for lack of oxygen. The aircraft flew for several hours on autopilot before running out of fuel and crashing in a corn field.

Former Blink 182 drummer Travis Barker was severely injured in a 2008 Learjet crash in South Carolina that killed four people.

That same year, a Learjet slammed into rush-hour traffic in a posh Mexico City neighborhood, killing Mexico's No. 2 government official, Interior Secretary Juan Camilo Mourino, and eight others on the plane, plus five people on the ground.



Clash

his upscale apartment, where he gave him cash and showered him with "attention and affection" and ultimately engaged in numerous sexual acts.

Herman said he is poring over receipts and other documents to see if the car service was paid for by Cash's employers at Sesame Street.

"We're confident in the actions that we took, but because this is now an issue between litigants, we're not going to comment further," said Ellen Lewis, a publicist for Sesame Street.

Messages left with a publicist for Clash were not immediately returned Monday.

Herman said the alleged victims didn't come forward sooner because they were afraid, but have found courage as others have spoken up.

He said they are compliant victims who participated in the sexual acts, but didn't consent because it's illegal for a minor to do so.

"Because they participated in the sex they feel like they're doing something wrong ... they're ashamed, they're embarrassed, not something they really want to talk about," he said.

Herman said he's been contacted by several other possible victims and is vetting their cases.

Ian McKellen as the Wizard Gandalf the Grey in the fantasy adventure, "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey."

MCT

Ian McKellen is back as Gandalf in ‘The Hobbit’

By STEVEN REA
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

PHILADELPHIA—“Gandalf is in Middle-earth to keep an eye on everybody, and that can be a rather serious matter,” says Ian McKellen, not all that seriously, on the phone from his London home the other day.

Absent last week from the Wellington, New Zealand, world premiere of “The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey,” McKellen, of course, is Gandalf—the wise old wizard and guiding spirit in “The Lord of the Rings” trilogy, and now in “The Hobbit” prequel trilogy, too.

“The Hobbit: An Unexpected

‘Zero Dark Thirty,’ ‘Lincoln’ make AFI top-10 list

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kathryn Bigelow’s Osama bin Laden thriller “Zero Dark Thirty,” Steven Spielberg’s Civil War epic “Lincoln” and Christopher Nolan’s superhero tale “The Dark Knight Rises” are among the American Film Institute’s top-10 movies of the year.

UK police arrest 6th person in sex abuse probe

LONDON (AP)—British police on Monday arrested another suspect in the sex abuse probe spurred by allegations against the late BBC entertainer Jimmy Savile.

The Metropolitan Police said officers arrested a man in his 60s on suspicion of sexual offences. The man, who was not identified, was taken to a London police station for questioning and was later released on bail until

Journey,” Peter Jackson’s hugely anticipated first installment, shot at 48 frames per second (twice a film’s normal speed) and in 3-D, opens Friday.

Set, as J.R.R. Tolkien wrote, in a time “between the Dawn of Faerie and the Dominion of Men,” “The Hobbit” follows the furry-footed, reluctant hero Bilbo Baggins as he embarks on a mission to claim a huge treasure guarded by an evil dragon, Smaug. He is joined on his quest by 13 dwarves, and here and there—when crises arise—by the mysterious, mischievous Gandalf. “The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug” and “The Hobbit: There and Back Again”

Also on the AFI top-10 announced Monday: Ben Affleck’s Iran hostage-crisis drama “Argo”; Benh Zeitlin’s low-budget hit “Beasts of the Southern Wild”; Quentin Tarantino’s slavery saga “Django Unchained”; Tom Hooper’s Victor Hugo musical “Les Misérables”; Ang Lee’s

January, Scotland Yard said.

Six people have been arrested while a seventh has been questioned. No one has been charged.

The arrest is the latest in Operation Yewtree, a broad investigation into child sex abuse spurred by the case of Savile, a popular BBC children’s program presenter who has been accused of serial sex abuse of underage girls. Police

are to be released in late 2013 and 2014, respectively.

Although it has been a dozen years since McKellen donned the wizard’s hat for the “Lord of the Rings” trilogy—and although “The Hobbit” takes place more than a half century earlier in Middle-earth chronology—the actor, now 73, believes age is not an issue.

“Here’s the good news for the fans—or the bad news, rather,” he says with a laugh. “I’m exactly the same as I was before. I hope that I don’t look 12 years older. It’s true, Gandalf is actually meant to be 70 years younger—or is it 60?—but actually he’s 7,000 years old, so

shipwreck story “Life of Pi”; Wes Anderson’s first-love romance “Moonrise Kingdom”; and David O. Russell’s misfit love story “Silver Linings Playbook.”

Creative ensembles for the films and the AFI’s top-10 TV picks will be honored at a luncheon in Los Angeles on Jan. 11.

say there may be several hundred victims of Savile, who died last year aged 84.

The Savile allegations have embarrassed the BBC, which has been accused of failing to report on investigations into Savile’s alleged crimes. BBC Director-general George Entwistle was forced to resign last month over the broadcaster’s handling of the scandal.

who’s counting? I think we’ll be OK. ... I don’t know in what sense he could be younger. He’s very much the same old soul.”

That said, McKellen is happy to be returning as Gandalf the Grey, not Gandalf the White—the back-from-the-dead incarnation seen in the later, darker stages of “The Lord of the Rings” narrative.

Alicia Keys: I want to cut my hair even shorter

NEW YORK (AP)—Alicia Keys recently cut off most of her hair, and the singer is looking to go even shorter.

The R&B superstar debuted her bob hairdo this year.

When asked in a recent interview if she would shave her head, the 31-year-old replied:



Keys

“I’m thinking about something like that. I’m telling you. I’m going there. I’m doing it.” The Grammy-winning Keys arrived on the music scene in 2001 with braids, and she has mostly worn her hair long. She says with her new cut, she’s able to do more with her hair.

If she shaves her head, she’ll follow a list of celebrities including Natalie Portman, India Arie, Chrisette Michelle and Kellie Pickler.

Wife of 14 years learns man still carries torch for another

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 14 years to a man who had two failed marriages. I never felt insecure in my married life until I read his answers to a Yahoo Answers poll that asked, “Do you dream about the one that got away?” and, “Have you found the love of your life?”

My husband responded that he thinks about her very often, especially on her birthday and Valentine’s Day. To the other question he replied he had found the love of his life, but the relationship had ended in divorce, which he admitted was his fault.

I know he was talking about his first wife. I feel so sad and insecure. Now I must deal with the fact that on Valentine’s Day his thoughts are with someone else. How can I get over this? I no longer believe him when he says he loves me because I have proof that he hasn’t moved on yet. I can’t believe he said that even now he still thinks about her. Please help.

SAD HEART IN SAN JOSE

DEAR SAD HEART: Your husband posted those thoughts on a public forum? Rather than feel hurt and insecure, you should be furious. How would he feel if the person answering that poll had been you? (Of course, you would have had better judgment.)

By now it should be clear to you that you did not marry a rocket scientist. You have my sympathy because his first marriage has been over for nearly two decades and he—along with his obvious shortcomings—are no longer her problem, but yours. However, your pain may lessen if you look at the bright side: He treats you well 363 days a year, and many of the women who write to me are not so lucky.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been involved with a man in a long-distance relationship for two years. I care about him very much and I believe he cares for me.

Things were going great until he was devastated by a downturn in his business. He had planned to move here, but was unable to sell his home. We used to see each other every two weeks, but no longer. It has been almost two months. He calls once a week, but nothing else.

We have been close and he has shared his life, his worries and personal information with me. I haven’t pressured him and I don’t need a commitment now, although I would like one someday.

Abby, he seems to be drifting away. Is it OK to write to him, email him, send encouraging notes once a week and continue to support him? Is it too much to ask for more frequent communication from him? I have offered to travel the 1,000 miles, but he has evaded my offer. I’m not ready to walk away. We have been great together and this is difficult for me. Advice?

HOLDING ON IN COASTAL CALIFORNIA

DEAR HOLDING ON: It’s fine to be supportive, but don’t overwhelm him right now. You may have to let this play out in its own time. Your friend may have retreated because he’s concentrating his energy on reviving his business. He may be licking his wounds or he may have met someone, which is why he discouraged your visit. That he still calls you is encouraging.

Because you have known him for two years, I recommend you simply ASK him if he’s met someone else. If the answer is no, it will put your mind at ease. But if the answer is yes, at least you’ll be clear about what happened.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

French star Depardieu moves to lower-tax Belgium

PARIS (AP)—A Belgian mayor says famed French actor Gerard Depardieu has bought a home and set up legal residence in his small town, lured by the food, the people, the lifestyle—and lower tax rates than back home. The Socialist government under French President Francois Hollande has infuriated many ultra-rich in France by presenting a 2013 budget that would tax top earners at 75 percent over the first €1 million of annual income. Belgium’s top rate is 50 percent.

Mayor Daniel Senesael of Nechin, about a kilometer inside Belgium near the French city of Lille, said that “in our conversation, his reasons were also other than those about taxes,” RTL radio reported. Depardieu’s talent agent didn’t immediately respond to an e-mail from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Luke Bryan cleans up at ACAs with 9 awards

Luke Bryan didn’t want the American Country Awards to end. He cleaned up during the fan-voted show, earning nine awards,

including artist and album of the year. His smash hit “I Don’t Want This Night To End” was named single and music video of the year. Miranda Lambert took home the second most guitar trophies with three. Jason Aldean was named touring artist of the year. Carrie Underwood won female artist of the year, and a tearful Lauren Alaina won new artist of the year. Bryan, Aldean, Keith Urban, Lady Antebellum and Trace Adkins with Lynyrd Skynyrd were among the high-energy performances. The third annual ACAs were held at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas Monday night.

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Patriots rout Texans in key AFC matchup, 42-14



FOXBOROUGH, Mass.
(AP)—Tom Brady can't stop smiling these days. Or

winning.

Five days after becoming a father for a third time—something that brings the biggest grin of all to his face—Brady threw four touchdown passes, leading the Patriots to a 42-14 rout of the Houston Texans.

If the game was a measuring stick in the AFC, New England and its star quarterback aced the test with a seventh consecutive victory. Houston failed it.

"It's a Monday night game," Brady said. "We have played in a lot of big games in December."

A matchup of the top two scoring teams in the league was a mismatch from the outset. It took New England (10-3) only one possession to start its scoring barrage as the Patriots surpassed their average of 35.8 points per game.

"It needs to come together now, this is the perfect time for it," said Brady, whose wife, Gisele, gave birth to Vivian Lake last Wednesday.

"She is doing very well," Brady said. "It's been a great week, a great way to end it."

So look out. That familiar sight is the Patriots, who already own the AFC East title, romping through December, looking like a Super Bowl team.

"We can't predict the score but we know we can dominate games," said Devin McCourty, who had a first-quarter interception.

They often dominate late in the season; this was their 21st straight victory in the second half of the schedule.

"It is always good to play in Foxborough in December," linebacker Jerod Mayo said. "When you go out and perform the way you do, I think Foxborough is going to be a tough place for anyone to come and play."

The Texans (11-2) discovered that quickly, and now they need to look back at the Patriots gaining on them in the conference standings.

"We got our tails kicked," Texans coach Gary Kubiak said. "When you've got an op-



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady reacts as he runs onto the field before an NFL football game against the Houston Texans in Foxborough, Mass., Monday, Dec. 10, 2012.

AP

portunity to make a big play, you can't miss it against a team of this magnitude. We turned around and it was 21-0 pretty quick."

Wes Welker's 31-yard punt return and 25-yard reception—the 107th straight game he's had a catch—led to Aaron Hernandez's 7-yard score to start the onslaught. That gave Brady 45 consecutive games with a TD pass, third longest in NFL history.

It also set the tone.

Houston, which had won six straight, threatened on its next series, only to have Matt Schaub force a ball into double coverage in the Patriots' end zone. McCourty picked it off and returned it 19 yards, setting up more pinpoint throws by Brady, who finished 21 of 35.

He couldn't miss if he tried in the first quarter, his receivers were so uncovered: Brandon Lloyd for 14 yards, Danny Woodhead for 18, Hernandez

for 13, then Lloyd for the 37-yard TD to make it 14-0. Texans defensive coordinator Wade Phillips could only shake his head in disgust at his players' inability to challenge the Patriots.

It got worse.

At the end of a 70-yard drive helped by a 26-yard interference call on Danieal Manning, no Texans were lined up to Brady's left in front of Hernandez. A quick snap, a quicker pass and the tight end waltzed into the end zone.

"We've got to look in the mirror at what we did tonight," Kubiak said.

New England was headed for its 20th successive home win in December.

"These guys feel really good about the way they played tonight and they should," coach Bill Belichick said.

Houston was headed back home wondering not only how it could measure up to a perennial championship contender in

the future, but if it could hold off surging Indianapolis in the AFC South. The Texans have a two-game lead but face the Colts (9-4) on Sunday in Houston, then in the season finale at Indianapolis.

Although the Texans have clinched at least a wild-card berth, they haven't had a truly convincing win since October. This was a convincing defeat, however—although they got on the scoreboard in the third quarter with an 88-yard drive capped by Arian Foster's

1-yard run.

But Foster was held to 46 yards on 15 carries.

By then the Patriots had scored their fourth TD, a gorgeous 63-yard throw to Donte Stallworth, who was re-signed last week to replace injured Julian Edelman. It gave Brady his 18th game with at least four TD passes, moving ahead of Hall of Famer John Unitas for fourth all time.

Brady nearly had a fifth as Woodhead broke free on a screen pass early in the fourth

period. Texans standout defensive end J.J. Watt, who was pretty much invisible otherwise, forced a fumble, but the ball soared 11 yards into the end zone, where Lloyd fell on it for a 35-7 lead.

Stevan Ridley made it 42-7 with a 14-yard run. The Texans have allowed 42 points in both losses, the other coming against Green Bay on Oct. 14.

Texans backup quarterback T.J. Yates scored on a 1-yard run with 2:00 remaining to close the scoring.

Slumping Ravens fire offensive coordinator Cameron

OWINGS MILLS, Md.

(AP)—Cam Cameron has been fired as offensive coordinator of the Baltimore Ravens, who have lost two straight and are still striving for consistency in the running and passing game.

Cameron ran the team's offense since the start of the 2008 season, when current

coach Jim Harbaugh replaced Brian Billick. Since that time, the Ravens' attack has repeatedly taken a back seat to the team's defense.

The move came Monday.

Jim Caldwell, who was hired as quarterbacks coach before the season, will assume Cameron's duties. Caldwell was head

coach of the Indianapolis Colts from 2009-11.

Baltimore (9-4) scored seven points after halftime Sunday in a 31-28 overtime loss to the Washington Redskins. Quarterback Joe Flacco passed for only 182 yards, lost a fumble and was intercepted in the third quarter.

Western Kentucky hires Petrino as football coach



BOWLING GREEN, Ky.
(AP)—Now that Bobby

Petrino is back in the coaching ranks, he wants to make the most of his second chance.

Petrino was introduced Monday as Western Kentucky's new head football coach. The 51-year-old was fired by Arkansas in April for a "pattern of misleading" behavior following an accident in which the coach was injured while riding a mo-

torcycle with his mistress as a passenger.

"At this point in my career, it's about getting back and coaching players," Petrino said. "It just happened to open up at a place we love."

"I hope it can be as long as possible."

Petrino had a 34-17 record at Arkansas before he was dismissed in the wake of the scandal. Petrino had an affair with former Razorback volleyball player Jessica Dorrell, who he

later hired as a football assistant had gave \$20,000 in gifts. Petrino said initially he was the only person on the motorcycle but later admitted to Dorrell's presence.

"I'm going to be able to sit down with mom and dad and the student-athlete and make them understand how this experience has made me a better coach, a better person and will make me understand their son better," Petrino said during a packed news conference at

Houchens-Smith Stadium.

"I'm looking forward to the opportunity I'll be able to give student athletes when they make a mistake."

Petrino is replacing Willie Taggart, who left WKU last week to become South Florida's coach.

Western Kentucky gave Petrino a four-year deal with a base annual salary of \$850,000. If he terminates the deal at any time, he must re-pay the university \$1.2 million in six monthly

payments starting the month after he leaves.

Athletic director Todd Stewart knows he might get criticized for hiring Petrino.

He and Petrino had a long discussion over the weekend about the coach's past. Stewart said Petrino was candid and honest about his conduct and took responsibility for his actions. He said Petrino's contrition convinced him to give the coach a shot.

"What it comes down is that

he made a big mistake and he acknowledges that and he's taken ownership of that," Stewart said. "And he's paid a heavy price for it."

"But this is the United States of America, and we're a country of second chances. I was confident after talking with him and with other people that he deserved a second chance and we are more than happy to give it to him."

Petrino, 75-26 overall as a college head coach, said he is looking forward to "building on the foundation and standards" that Taggart established.

With big night from James, Heat top Hawks



MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James leaped as high as he can soar. Dwyane Wade shot better than he ever has before.

And when the Miami Heat stars are on their games like that ... "We probably won't lose," James said.

Such was the case Monday night. James scored 27 points, Wade had 26 and the Heat pulled away in the second half to beat the Atlanta Hawks 101-92, improving to 10-1 at home this season.

James (10 for 16) and Wade (11 for 13, the best single-game shooting percentage of his career) made 21 of 29 shots for Miami, which shot 58 percent as a team. Chris Bosh had 14 points and 10 rebounds and Norris Cole made all four of his shots to score 10 for the Heat, who handed the Hawks just their second loss in 11 games.

"Just trying to be as efficient as I can," Wade said. "Shooting 13 shots, it's nothing I'm used to. Some nights you go for 11-for-13. Some nights you go 3 for 13. But you just try to continue to be aggressive and continue taking shots."

Josh Smith scored 22 points and Al Horford finished with 20 points and 11 rebounds for Atlanta, which briefly held the lead midway through the third quarter before the Heat got rolling and moved 1 1/2 games ahead of the

Hawks in the Southeast Division.

Atlanta has dropped both games against Miami this season and is 1-7 against the Heat since March 2011.

"We gave LeBron and D-Wade some opportunities to be able to get some layups early on and whenever you play against a team like that or whenever you give a great player opportunities to get layups first, the rim gets that much bigger," Smith said. "And they started hitting all kinds of shots."

A big third-quarter run put the Heat in control, and one of James' best dunks this season helped seal it in the fourth. Cole took a pass from Ray Allen, dribbled once and nonchalantly flipped the ball toward the rim.

James, who also had seven rebounds and six assists, did the rest.

James leaped—the top of his fingers stretched easily more than a foot above the basket—for a slam with 9:51 left, and the Heat weren't threatened in the final minutes.

"Cole made me go get it, for sure," James said. "He actually took that literally when I told him, 'Just throw it anywhere.'"

Said Wade: "That's his bi-omic leg."

Wade is now 20 for 25 in his last two games from the floor, scoring 26 points in each, and maybe it's not a coincidence that those outings came after NBA an-

alyst Charles Barkley—Wade's one-time cell phone commercial co-star—said what he's been saying many times in the past couple years: The 2006 NBA Finals MVP's game is declining.

"It means Charles Barkley needs to shut up," James said. "I mean, the man's shooting 80 percent from the floor in the last couple games. Come on, man. That's like crazy, right? That's why who he is."

The Heat came into Monday night talking about how this particular game was significant for many reasons, foremost among them the Hawks' position in the division.

And while it's way too early to take more than a passing interest in the standings, Miami had taken notice of Atlanta's early success.

"We've been watching," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

The up-close-and-personal view wasn't a surprise, then.

Miami led 56-54 at intermission, a well-played half where neither team led by more than five points. The Heat shot 64 percent from the field in the opening two quarters, 50 percent from 3-point range—but a mere 44 percent from the line, part of the reason why the margin was only two points at the break.

Spurs 134, Rockets 126, OT

In Houston, Gary Neal hit seven

3-pointers and scored 29 points, and Tony Parker had a triple-double with 27 points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists to lead San Antonio over Houston.

Jeremy Lin had his best game since joining the Rockets, scoring a career high-tying 38 points with leading scorer James Harden sidelined by a sprained right ankle.

Neal's last 3-pointer followed by a three-point play by Manu Ginobili put the Spurs ahead 130-122 with two minutes left in overtime, and they held on for the win. It was San Antonio's fifth straight win overall and second over Houston in three days after a 114-92 victory Friday.

Houston is 0-2 since coach Kevin McHale returned to the bench following the death of his daughter.

Warriors 104, Bobcats 96

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Stephen Curry put on a show for his hometown fans, finishing with 27 points, seven assists and seven rebounds to lead Golden State over Charlotte.

Curry, who grew up in Charlotte and made a name for himself leading nearby Davidson College to the brink of the Final Four in 2008, shot 10 of 22 from the field and hit four 3-pointers. It was his eighth straight 20-point game, a career best.

David Lee had 25 points and

11 rebounds for the Warriors (14-7), who have won seven of their past eight games and improved to 4-0 on their current seven-game Eastern trip.

Kemba Walker scored 24 points to lead the Bobcats, who have lost eight straight.

Mavericks 119, Kings 96

In Dallas, O.J. Mayo scored 19 points and Dallas took control with a 31-3 run in the first half to beat Sacramento for the 17th straight time at home during the regular season.

Chris Kaman, playing on a sprained left ankle he suffered last week, scored 16 of his 18 points in the first half for Dallas.

Francisco Garcia, who was 7 of 12 from 3-point range, and DeMarcus Cousins scored 25 points apiece for the Kings, who haven't won in Dallas during the regular season since Feb. 27, 2003.

Mayo hit a jumper late in the first quarter to kick off the game-turning run for the Mavs, who led by as many as 28 in the first half and were up 65-43 at halftime.

Trail Blazers 92, Raptors 74

In Portland, Oregon, LaMarcus Aldridge had 30 points and 12 rebounds to lead Portland to a win over Toronto in a game that was overshadowed by injuries

for both sides.

J.J. Hickson added 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who were without injured starters Nicolas Batum and Wesley Matthews.

DeMar DeRozan scored 20 points for the Raptors, who lost forward Andrea Bargnani to a right elbow injury and guard Kyle Lowry to a right shoulder problem during the game.

Toronto also lost reserve Amir Johnson in the second half after he was ejected for arguing with an official. Johnson threw his mouthpiece and had to be restrained by teammates before exiting.

76ers 104, Pistons 97

In Philadelphia, Evan Turner had 18 points and 11 rebounds, and Jrue Holiday scored 25 points to lead Philadelphia past Detroit.

Thaddeus Young added 20 points and Spencer Hawes had 15 for the Sixers.

Greg Monroe missed a tip-in with less than a minute left that came back to haunt Detroit. Holiday sank a 19-footer for a 100-95 lead and the Sixers stretched it from there at the free throw line.

Monroe and Brandon Knight had 22 points apiece. Rodney Stuckey scored 19 for Detroit, and Tayshaun Prince finished with 16.

Jason Richardson scored 13 points for Philadelphia.

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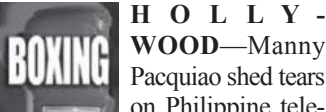
AGANA 477-RENT
Marine Corps Dr. Reserved Parking in Rear

DEDEDO 637-RENT
Calvo's Center, Behind John's Supermarket

SAIPAN 234-RENT
Middle Road, Next to Subway

Pacquiao cries on TV for letting PH down

By ROY LUARCA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



H O L L Y - WOOD—Manny Pacquiao shed tears on Philippine television on Monday, saying he had let his country down.

But don't count him out yet. A devastating knockout loss to his great Mexican rival Juan Manuel Marquez won't make him quit boxing.

"I'm ready to fight in April," Pacquiao told Manila-based sportswriters in a customized luxury bus that took them from Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas to Hollywood.

Pacquiao announced the date for his comeback fight to end all speculations about his boxing future following his sixth-round loss to Marquez in their fourth encounter on Saturday.

In Hollywood, the Pacquiaoos were brought to their \$2-million house near Hancock Park, where they were to spend the night. In the garage were Pacquiao's service car, a Mercedes

Benz and his Ferrari 458 Italia, acquired just last year.

Interviewed on GMA network, Pacquiao indicated how deeply he felt the disappointment of his followers back home.

"The low morale, the sadness, I accept that. This is my job ... But the reaction of the Filipinos, the many who cried, especially my family, it really hurts me," he told the network.

The former eight-division world champion wiped tears from his eyes listening to his wife, Jinkee, make a tearful appeal on camera for her husband, who turns 34 next week, to hang up his gloves.

"When you see your husband get hurt, you cannot even sleep," she said in the interview.

Asked if she wanted her husband to retire from boxing, she said: "You know the answer to that. He knows what I am asking him."

In the bus, Pacquiao told the sportswriters that Saturday's loss to Marquez "was similar to what happened to me against (Rustico) Torrecampo." He

was referring to his third-round knockout defeat on Feb. 9, 1996, when he was still fighting at 110 pounds.

"I got nailed by a sneaky punch that caught me in the chin coming in," Pacquiao said in Filipino. "If it were in the jaw, I can withstand it."

5th fight

Swinging as if he was shadow-boxing, Pacquiao admitted he got careless with Marquez because he wanted to put up a strong showing to end the sixth round.

"I faked twice and he got me [with that right] as I stumbled," he said.

Despite the one-punch knockout that left him motionless—face down on the canvas for over a minute—Pacquiao said he was raring for a fifth fight with Marquez to get even. "Yes, why not."

"Marquez was lucky. The next fight, I'll get him," he said, adding that he had intended to finish his Mexican rival in the seventh or eighth round to give fans what they wanted—an ex-

plosive fight.

"I saw his nose bleeding and that he had difficulty breathing," Pacquiao said. "I was also told that his corner was ready to stop the fight in the seventh."

Pacquiao fell short as Marquez, dubbed "El Dinamita," threw a dynamite right that exploded on his face and knocked him out cold.

Despite the loss, Pacquiao said he was satisfied he was able to give the fans an explosive fight.

"Don't fight if you don't want to lose," he said. "That's sports."

As a routine procedure, he was taken after the bout to the trauma unit of University Medical Center, where he underwent medical tests, including a CT scan, to find out if he had suffered a concussion.

The result was negative and he was cleared to return to his penthouse suite at the hotel.

He will be under observation for three days, although he was allowed to make the five-hour trip to Hollywood, including a tradi-

tional stop at midpoint Barstow.

No fight with Mayweather

Since he suffered no major head injuries, Pacquiao is deemed fit to fight again next year. Against whom and when, there's no clear development yet.

While a lucrative fight with Floyd Mayweather Jr. is off the radar at the moment, the continuation of his ring saga with Marquez may be in the horizon.

Promoter Bob Arum, while hesitant to stage an immediate rematch because of the punishment sustained by both fighters, with Marquez suspected of having a broken nose, the 81-year-old big boss of Top Rank is reportedly being bombarded with requests for a Pacquiao-Marquez 5.

Another possible opponent, if Pacquiao's original schedule of April 20 for his next fight is followed, is rising star Brandon "Bam Bam" Rios, a toe-to-toe fighter whose style should suit Pacquiao's just fine.

While Pacquiao also has a score to settle with Timothy Bradley, who beat him by a dubious split decision, Arum is not keen on the proposition, as their fight in June was a disappointment at the gates and failed to generate a million PPV (pay-

per-view) buys.

In contrast, the Pacquiao-Marquez 4 was a blockbuster, with a sellout crowd of 16,348, gate receipts of \$10.5 million and an assured 1 million plus PPV hits, which could put Pacquiao's total income for the fight at between \$25 million to \$30 million.

Pacquiao is willing to take on anybody Arum will put in front of him since he wants redemption for the humiliation he suffered in Marquez's hands.

Pacquiao and wife Jinkee are scheduled to take the Monday flight to Manila, arriving in the Philippines on Wednesday for the birthday of their son, Jimwell.

On Dec. 17, Pacquiao will turn 34 and more celebrations are scheduled in General Santos City and Sarangani province, where he's running unopposed for a second term as congressman.

Also in the bus, emblazoned with his image and a teaser of Pacquiao-Marquez 4, were several pastors, boxers Dodie Boy Peñalosa Jr. and Ernie Sanchez, who both won in the undercard of Saturday's fight, and Michael Farenas, who put up a gallant losing stand against Yurior-kis Gamboa, as well as Filipino television crews. **With reports from AFP and AP**

Billiards tourneys continue at 19th Hole

Pool tournaments are continuing at the 19th Hole in Lower Navy Hill.

The Wednesday contests are 8-ball, double elimination. Half

of the pot goes to the winner, 30 percent to second place, and 20 percent to third place. The first game begins at 8pm with an entry fee of \$10.

Sundays are for 9-ball. The games are a race-to-three (best three out of five), single elimination. The entry fee is \$10 plus \$1.50 for pool time and

the prize split the same as the Wednesday competitions. The first match starts at 7pm. A one-game handicap will be given to better players. **(PR)**

LEE

From Page 28

The two CNMI U12 bets are also competing in the doubles and U14 singles. Lee and Heras won their opening

match in the doubles, shutting out Hughes and Kelly Benish, 6-0.6-0. The duo then faces the second-ranked Phoebe Adler and Courtney Huff in today's quarterfinal round.

In the U14 singles, Lee prevailed in her first round match

against Caitlin Kashyap, 6-1, 6-1, before losing to No. 2-ranked Louise Walte, 1-6, 3-6. Heras drew a bye in the first round, but fell to Mia Wardlaw in the second, 3-6, 0-6.

Meanwhile, Luther Lizama was the CNMI's lone male en-

try to the Waikato tournament and he dropped his debut in the boys U12, bowing to No. 14 seed Anton Shepp, 1-6, 3-6.

Besides the competition in Hamilton, Lizama and company will also play in Gisborne and Auckland.

PAIRE

From Page 28

first game of the M-League Cup and topped Kanoa Resort.

After a scoreless first half, Inter found its form in the final 45 minutes of the match to move to the next round of the competition.

Chris Nelson ended the drought with his goal in the 49th minute, while Ropati Tonu'u also scored nine minutes later. Sean Perez then kept Kanoa's hopes alive with a goal in the 78th minute, but

Inter sealed the win with back-to-back goals in a span of six minutes. Arkie Reusora gave Inter its third goal in the 81st, while Bruce Berline logged the fourth one in the 87th.

KFAS 4, Matansa 1

Korean Football Association on Saipan completed the Final Four cast after ousting Matansa in the last game of the weekend.

KFAS will advance against Wild Bill's, which drew a bye in the first round.

A 3-0 lead at halftime was what KFAS needed to secure a semis seat. It was all business

right at the start of the game with Young Ha Hwang scoring in the first minute. Sung Ho Kang also hit his target early, scoring in the 10th, while Jun Woo Lee made it a 3-0 count after getting his lone goal in the 43rd.

Matansa then avoided a shut-out when Dhiraj Chhetri found the back of the net in the 50th, but KFAS still took he 3-point win, as Chong Koo Gil scored a minute later.

The KFAS-Wild Bill's semis tiff will be played this Sunday at the Oleai pitch at 4:30pm, while Inter and Paire duel in the first semis game at

2pm. Winners of the two semis matches battle for the Cup on Dec. 19 at 6:30pm.

Meanwhile, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association clarified that Paire FC will remain in Division 1 of the M-League, while KFAS will be relegated to Division 2.

"Paire FC and KFAS are tied in total points (7), but by virtue of goal differential with Paire FC having -6 and KFAS posting -9, Paire FC stays in Division 1 and KFAS is relegated to the Division 2," NMIFA general secretary Ed Salas said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

PIKABOO

From Page 28

belt division's 150-160-lb weight class in both the Gi and No-Gi divisions.

He finished third place out of a field of six in the No-Gi grouping and took the silver in what was his first-ever Gi competition.

Roman came out on the topside of what was a head-to-head 140-150-lb white belt division setting in both the Gi and No-Gi fields.

Master Irvin was not able to make the trip with them to the competition, however the duo was fortunate to receive some advice from their mentor, Frank "The Crank" Camacho, and D.J. "Ram Man" Jackson, both of whom accompanied them at the event.

Camacho is a former blue belt gold medalist with a purple belt bronze, while Jackson is a former college wrestler that has exploded on to the BJJ scene.

In about a four-year stint, the 22-year-old middleweight Jackson has bannered both Gi and

No-Gi BJJ Mundials world titles in the blue, purple, and brown belt divisions. He just won the Gi black belt world title earlier this year and wants to couple it with a Gi championship.

Other awards Jackson won include being named 2012's Gracie World Champion of the brown belt field and a silver prize in this year's Rickson Gracie Cup.

Earlier in his career, Jackson also won a blue bronze and purple silver in Pan-American Jiu Jitsu World Championships.

The Pan-American events

differ from the Mundials in that they are international affiliations, just like the United Arab Emirates Federation, which holds its World Championships in Abu Dhabi; Jackson also has his sites set on in the near future. He wrestled for the Northwestern Red Raiders in Iowa where he finished his career with the eighth most in most wins ever in a season and fifth in total takedowns.

In addition to acquiring the Gi black belt plum, Jackson also has his sites set on Abu Dhabi.

PINBUSTER

From Page 28

The league champions then got additional \$95 for recording the high game scratch (808) after beating Team Storm (796) and the high series scratch (2,327), following a win over Bud Boyz (2,305).

Team Storm also took some extra cash after prevailing in the high game with handicap (917) against Bud Boyz (904), while SBC reigned supreme in the high series with handicap, tallying 2,605 or just two pinfalls ahead of The Boots.

In the individual contests, Bud Boyz' Robert Talavera carded 256 in the high game scratch to edge Team Storm's Joe Sto. Domingo and Musca, who tied for second with their identical 253 pinfalls. Sto. Domingo redeemed himself in the high game with handicap, as his 282 topped the 271 of What's Up Doc's Jerry Kaneshi.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	15	5	.750	—
Brooklyn	11	8	.579	3 1/2
Philadelphia	12	9	.571	3 1/2
Boston	11	9	.550	4
Toronto	4	18	.182	12

Southeast Division

Miami	14	5	.737	—
Atlanta	12	6	.667	1 1/2
Orlando	8	12	.400	6 1/2
Charlotte	7	13	.350	7 1/2
Washington	2	15	.118	11

Central Division

Chicago	11	8	.579	—
Milwaukee	10	9	.526	1
Indiana	10	11	.476	2
Detroit	7	16	.304	6
Cleveland	4	17	.190	8

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	18	4	.818	—
Memphis	14	4	.778	2
Dallas	11	10	.524	6 1/2
Houston	9	11	.450	8
New Orleans	5	14	.263	11 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	17	4	.810	—
Utah	12	10	.545	5 1/2
Minnesota	9	9	.500	6 1/2
Denver	10	11	.476	7
Portland	9	12	.429	8

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	14	6	.700	—
Golden State	14	7	.667	1/2
L.A. Lakers	9	12	.429	5 1/2
Sacramento	7	13	.350	7
Phoenix	7	15	.318	8

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

6th Annual Spearfishing Competition

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



From left, The Thingz team captain Tony Scragg, Dave Camacho Jr., and Ton Robert show off the Biggest Catch prizewinner, a Napoleon Wrasse that tipped the scales at 35.56 lb, during Marianas Apnea Spearfishing Club's 6th Annual Spearfishing Competition held last Nov. 24.



Participants gather for a group photo after conclusion of the awards ceremony.



Last place Jun Yamagishi, left, and Norman Camacho, right, humbly accept their 10th place consolation prize from MASC's Richard Seman.



The Tinian duo of Luis Camacho, left, and Joseph Cepeda took home runner-up honors in both the single and total weight divisions.



A MASC official balances the contest's Biggest Catch on an electronic scale.

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Patriots rout Texans in key AFC matchup, 42-14

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Saipan Tribune Sports



With big night from James, Heat top Hawks

PAGE 25

28 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lee enters finals of NZ debut

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI junior tennis player Carol Lee had an explosive debut in New Zealand, advancing into the finals of the 2012 Waikato Christmas Junior Open.



The unranked Lee is entered in the 32-player draw U12 singles, stunned two seeded foes and notched four wins at the Waikato Tennis Centre in Hamilton to advance to the title game against

Fiji's Ruby Coffin.

Lee started her U12 singles bid with a 6-0, 6-0 demolition of the host's Cassidy Hughes last Friday and continued her run last Saturday and Sunday, eliminating the third-seeded Annabel Coates, 6-3, 6-1, and fifth-ranked Sophie Michi, 6-2, 6-1.

With her three wins, Lee advanced to the semifinals where she pulled off an upset against No. 2 seed Alysha Nowacki, 6-1, 6-3.

Joining Lee in the U12 singles draw was teammate Isabel Heras, who missed an all-CNMI finals after bowing to Coffin in the Final Four. Heras also clobbered her foe in the opening round, blasting No. 8 seed Hannah Yee. Next up for Heras was Letava Tagunai and the CNMI netter won anew, 6-0, 6-1. Heras's biggest test came in the quarterfinals and she passed after surviving top-ranked Sarah Kate Weekley, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3. However, Heras failed to set up a finals date with Lee after losing to Coffin, 1-6, 1-6.

Lee and Coffin collide for the U12 crown today at 8:30am (5:30am Saipan time). Lee is the second CNMI player to advance to the finals of the Waikato tournament. Negahr Rastguir was the first one, as she battled top-ranked Sarah Knighton last year but lost in the finale, 1-6, 2-6.

See LEE on Page 26

Carol Lee, seen here waiting for the ball from the baseline, advanced to the finals of the 2012 Waikato Christmas Junior Open last Monday at the Waikato Tennis Centre in Hamilton, New Zealand.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Pikaboo medals in first mainland BJJ competition

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

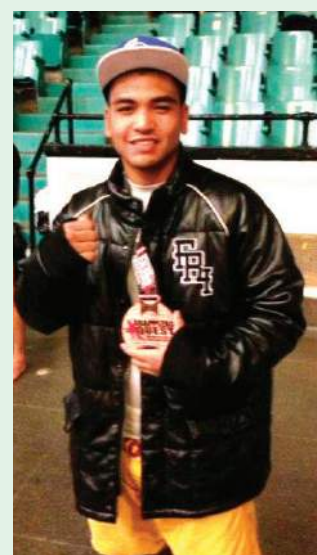


About a month after arriving in the U.S. mainland, Saipan's Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez won a silver and a bronze medal in the 2012 Grapplers Quest World Championships held in New Jersey's Asbury Park Convention Hall last Saturday.

In addition, his cousin Roman "Boom" Alvarez seized a pair of gold medals.

The aspiring Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu students literally started their training as soon as they got off the plane in Camp Springs, Maryland at the Lloyd Irvin Mixed Martial Arts Academy.

Shane entered in the white
See PIKABOO on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shane Alvarez poses with his bronze and silver medals after the conclusion of last Saturday's 2012 Grapplers Quest World Championships at the Asbury Park Convention Hall in Asbury Park, New Jersey.

Pinbusters top Monday Night League



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Pinbusters pose with their trophy during the awards ceremony for the 15th Philippine Bowling Association-Budweiser Monday Night League held early this month at the Saipan Bowling Center.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Pinbusters claimed the championship in the 15th Philippine Bowling Association-Budweiser Monday Night League, besting 11 other teams after 18 weeks of competition.

The newly crowned champions are composed of Raul Dumapit, Rudy Sablan, Dannie Robles, Luis Tudela, Tony Verdager, Rusty Musca, and Diane Chong. The Pinbusters had a league-best 49-23 record when the 2012 season roll-offs concluded late last month.

J's Restaurant, Saipan Bowling Center, Team Storm, and The Boots rounded out the Top 5 with the only one win separating each squad. J's Restaurant owned a 43-29 mark, SBC had a 42-30 slate, Team Storm held a 41-31 card, and The Boots notched a 40-32 record. Other teams that joined the league were Bud Boyz, Tan Holdings, RNV, San Jose Court, Team Mobil, and What's Up Doc.

The Pinbusters were awarded \$375 and a trophy for ruling the 11-team contest, while J's Restaurant brought home \$235. The three other squads received \$175, \$115, and \$75.

See PINBUSTERS on Page 26

Paire barges into Final Four

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Paire Football Club coasted past Shirley's FC, 4-0, last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field to advance to the semifinals of the M-League Cup.

Four different players scored for Paire, which led by only one at halftime before Shirley's defense folded up in the second half, allowing the former to notch the easy win.

Robert Green's goal in the 8th minute put Paire on top early, 1-0.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Paire FC's Steve McKagan uses his chest to control the ball during their game against Shirley's in the M-League Cup last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Shirley's continued to struggle, offensively, in the first half, while Paire also cooled off in the remaining minutes in the opening frame and just managed to light up the scoreboard with 10 minutes gone by in the second half off Steve McKagan's penalty kick.

Timothy Tawanpiy then upped the lead to 3-0 with his goal in the 66th minute, while Juanito Tiamzon also made it to the board with just a minute left in the match.

With the win, Paire arranged a semis duel against Inter Godfather's.

Inter Godfather's 4, Kanoa Resort 1

Inter Godfather's played in the
See PAIRE on Page 26